



# The Brooklyn Paper

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BROOKLYN'S REAL NEWSPAPER  
The Brooklyn Papers  
FOR 25 YEARS

## For sale: Board of Ed building, brownstone

### Mayor puts 110 Livingston, 80 State on market



The Brooklyn Heights brownstone at 80 State St. used to house the New York City schools chancellor.

By Patrick Gallahue

The Brooklyn Papers

Mayor Michael Bloomberg is doing what Rudy could not... again.

After dismantling the Board of Education earlier this year, Bloomberg this week announced that the city will sell the now defunct Board of Education headquarters at 110 Livingston St., Downtown, as well as the schools chancellor's residence on State Street in Brooklyn Heights.

The mayor announced his plans as he finished a speech before city business leaders at the 2002 New York City Economic Development Summit on Monday at the New York Marriott Brooklyn on Adams Street.

Ever the seasoned businessman, Bloomberg praised the Livingston Street property, noting its ample space — 360,000 square feet — natural light and a recently renovated facade, then suggested that the building could be converted into 250 apartments.

Bloomberg said the sale

would generate millions of dollars for the cash-strapped city, send a message that the Board of Ed is "a thing of the past," and create a mixed-use development site for Downtown Brooklyn.

"The successful development of this unique property is an integral part of our efforts to capitalize on Downtown Brooklyn's strengths as a vital, 24/7 community," Bloomberg said. "In addition to adding to the excitement of Downtown Brooklyn, development of this building will also send a definitive message that the Board of Education is a thing of the past and the Department of Education is on a fast track to reform as well as generate much-needed revenue for the city."

Also going onto the auction block will be the five-bedroom, four-bath, schools chancellor residence on State Street, between Henry Street and Garden Place, which was purchased by the Board of Ed for a little under \$1 million in 1990. It was home to three chancellors before former Schools Chancellor Harold Levy chose to remain in his Upper West Side Manhattan co-op with a Board of Ed-supplied \$10,000 housing allowance. Current Chancellor

See **FOR SALE** on page 5



The Brooklyn Papers / Cary Winkler

## Holiday cheers

Hannah Senesh Community Day School kindergartners (above) sing Hanukkah songs as they give their hand-made menorahs a trial run. The eight-day Jewish festival begins at sundown Friday, Nov. 29. Large public menorahs will be lit nightly outside Borough Hall and at Grand Army Plaza (see "Where to GO," page GO 2). At left, heralding the Christmas season, Irma Padilla of Sunset Park sings carols during the Salvation Army's "Kettle Kick-off and Carol Sing" at Borough Hall.

## Maestro to leave B'klyn

### See page GO 6

## Olympic hopeful

### 2012 Games put Coney Sportsplex on fast track

By Deborah Kolben

The Brooklyn Papers

They called the Brooklyn Sportsplex dead when the city chose to build KeySpan Park instead, but now, with New York the official U.S. candidate for the 2012 Olympics, plans for a Sportsplex in Coney Island are back on the fast track, a top mayoral aide announced this week.

Deputy Mayor Daniel Doctoroff said sites that could potentially host Olympic events in Brooklyn would be developed before the city's bid to host the Olympics is officially accepted in 2005. Plans include construction of the long-anticipated Sportsplex in Coney Island,

which would house indoor volleyball should the city get the 2012 Olympics.

The announcement came at the Economic Development Summit, a conference hosted at the New York Marriott Brooklyn Monday morning dedicated to discussing the future of small business in Brooklyn. Sponsored by JP Morgan Chase, the almost 500 attendees — from local development corporations, business and universities — greeted the keynote speaker, Mayor Michael Bloomberg, with a standing ovation.

The mayor praised Downtown Brooklyn as the third largest business district in the city, with 1.3 million square feet of property currently under construction. He also

stressed the importance of Brooklyn, not Westchester or New Jersey, in absorbing the overflow of business from Manhattan.

Reserving the announcement of the sale of the former Board of Education headquarters at 110 Livingston St. until the end of his speech, the mayor explained to the packed ballroom that the property in Downtown Brooklyn could be converted into 250 apartments with ample space and natural light.

Brooklyn's loudest supporter, Borough President Marty Markowitz, applauded the mayor for his interest in developing Brooklyn, but suggested that 110 Livingston St. would be better put to use as office rather than residential space.

Doctoroff's Sportsplex announcement came on a follow-up panel dedicated to discussing the future economic growth of Brooklyn. Lauding the multitude of benefits that hosting the Olympics could bestow upon the borough, Doctoroff said, "Let's use the headlines the Olympics are creating. Let's get started right away."

New York City beat out Houston, Washington, D.C., and San Francisco to become the U.S. entrant on Nov. 2. A final decision by the International Olympic Committee will not be made until 2005. The city chosen to host the Games, which will last 17 days, must meet stringent requirements for security, transportation, and other factors.

See **OLYMPIC** on page 6

## FIREHOUSES SPARED

By Patrick Gallahue

The Brooklyn Papers

A demonstration, that was supposed to cap an angry week of protests against the closing of firehouses, turned into a temporary sigh of relief as engine companies facing the axe were given a reprieve when the City Council and Mayor Michael Bloomberg hashed out a budget modification over the weekend.

The day before Sunday's gathering of about 500 residents outside Engine 204 on Degraw Street between Court and Smith streets to protest the proposed elimination of the 155-year-old firehouse — Bloomberg and council members announced an agreement that would hike property taxes by 18.5 percent on Jan. 1, but temporarily save the eight firehouses proposed for closure by the mayor.

The city will, however, convene a blue-ribbon panel to investigate how best to deal with the necessary cuts, which was an idea put forth by Brooklyn Heights Councilman David Yassky.

"I think we'll have to make the argument based on substance," Yassky said. "These cuts were announced and we never got from the administration any rationale... This at least ensures a process to see what the arguments are."

Yassky said the mayor has promised to convene a panel with three representatives from the Fire Department, two mayoral appointees and two appointees of City



Children from PS 24 were among the protesters at a rally for Engine 278 held outside the Sunset Park firehouse Friday.

The Brooklyn Papers / Greg Mangro

Council Speaker Gifford Miller.

Expecting to see the panel convened within the next couple of weeks, Yassky added that ideas other than outright closure can now be proposed — such as shutting certain firehouses during the night, instead of altogether — in order to tighten belts without completely eliminating services.

To close a \$1.1 billion deficit in this

year's fiscal budget, and cut \$800 million to get a head start on next year's expected \$6 billion shortfall, Bloomberg had proposed cutting \$51 million from the Fire Department's \$1.1 billion budget, by closing eight fire companies, five of which are in Brooklyn; reducing the number of firefighters per engine from five to four in 49

See **FIREHOUSES** on page 6

## Atlantic gateway

### Port Authority plans to revamp Pier 6 entrance

By Patrick Gallahue

The Brooklyn Papers

Despite the desire of Brooklyn Bridge Park planners to one day incorporate Pier 6 into their waterfront development as a grand park gateway at Atlantic Avenue, and despite the current planning underway to turn the

avenue into a grand boulevard, the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey has embarked on its own \$2.6 million project to create a beautified gateway to the pier and perimeter of

the Red Hook Marine Terminal along Columbia Street.

The Port Authority plan will exchange chain-link fences for wrought-iron-style gates, and move those fences back three feet — along Columbia Street to Degraw Street, then west to

See **GATEWAY** on page 6



Rendering of the Port Authority's planned entrance to Pier 6.

## GAP shooting leaves 1 dead



A police officer stands beside car with bullet hole in its door.

By Deborah Kolben

The Brooklyn Papers

A man was shot to death and another critically injured as they sat in a car at Grand Army Plaza and Flatbush Avenue early Tuesday.

The two victims, both 28, were in a white 1995 Nissan Maxima when a black car pulled up and opened fire on them just after 5 a.m.

The driver of the Nissan was shot in the chest and declared dead upon arrival at Kings County Hospital, police said. The other victim, who was shot in the face, was listed in critical condition.

Police from the 78th Precinct were leading the investigation at press time.

Police said they had no information on a possible motive or further description of the black vehicle or the shooter or shooters.

The shooting occurred just a day after Mayor Bloomberg announced at a Downtown Brooklyn economic development conference that crime was at an all-time low in New York City. Indeed, borough-wide, murder is down from 223 this time last year to 198 so far in 2002 — but in the 78th Precinct, which includes Park Slope and Gowanus, there have been three reported murders, not including Tuesday's shooting, as opposed to only one last year, according to police department statistics.



Artist Elanit Kayne in her Kensington apartment, with a dress, furniture and lots of other things that she will sell.

## An artist sells out

### Kensington woman getting rid of all possessions

By Deborah Kolben

The Brooklyn Papers

A Brooklyn artist is pleading with New Yorkers to help her lose everything she owns.

Starting Monday, Elanit Kayne, 26, of Kensington, will spend 15 days in a display window on 42nd Street in Manhattan where she will be selling the entire contents of her apartment, including the bed she sleeps on.

The endeavor, she says, is an act of love.

"We keep all of these things boxed up, nobody even looks at it,"

Kayne told The Brooklyn Papers in an interview at her studio on Ocean Parkway at Albemarle Road. "So, instead, I'm freeing everything and blowing it all over New York City."

What makes Kayne's project an act of love, she says, is the stories attached to each item. "I'm sewing the history of the object back onto the object," Kayne says.

The 13-inch television propped up on a dresser next to her bed comes with the following message scribbled on top in permanent gold marker: "I love Oprah. I will miss seeing her fuzzy shape on this terrible reception. Love, Elanit."

The television is just one of about 500 objects up for sale. There is the peppermint hand lotion, her four wisdom teeth, the "Hang Ten" toothpick holder from Maui, the hot pink Danskin leggings she's had since the 1980s, a reading achievement award from 1985, an autographed letter from Judy Blume, the young adult fiction writer, and a framed prom picture from Weston High School with Kayne sporting a vegetable corsage supplied by her date.

See **ARTIST** on page 6

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# Celebs help Maimo raise money

By Deborah Kolben  
The Brooklyn Papers

Masks created by John Travolta, Donald Trump, Tom Hanks and many other celebrities were the centerpiece of a reception hosted by Maimonides Medical Center Wednesday, Nov. 20, to raise money for its Infants and Children's Hospital.

The masks that made their debut last week will be auctioned off at the hospital's



Dolores R. Santoliquido displays her painted star mask, which will be auctioned at Maimonides Medical Center's Winter Gala.

"Star Project" — Creating a Brighter Future" gala benefit at the Winter Garden of the World Financial Center on Dec. 7.

The Maimonides mask project was inspired by the Cow Parade that made some New Yorkers dream of greater pastures two years ago when nearly 500 life-sized fiberglass cows, painted by artists and school kids, were placed all over New York City, and then auctioned off for charity, explained Ginger Portnoy, vice president of development at Maimonides.

The masks are smaller in scale, but similar in nature. Spearheaded by Dr. Allan Strougwater, chairman of orthopedics at Maimonides, celebrities were sent letters asking for their support, along with a ceramic mask and kit that included paint and paint brushes.

Met's all star Mike Piazza, Brooklyn-born actress Maria Tomei, Donald Trump, and the casts of Rent and Hairspray were among those who pushed up their sleeves and demonstrated their artistic acuity.

Guests at Wednesday's reception perused catalogs displaying the array of masks to be auctioned off. A few artists were also on hand, including Dolores R. Santoliquido, who showed off her framed star creation with the words, "I wish I might have this wish I wish tonight" accompanying her mask.

According to Maimonides spokeswoman Eileen Tynion, nearly a third of Brooklyn's 2.5 million residents are under age 18 and the current facilities at Maimonides are no longer adequate to serve such a large population. The new building, which has been in the planning

stages for several years, will be the first in Brooklyn dedicated to pediatric care.

The ground breaking for the \$175 million project is scheduled for some time next year. Dr. Steven Shovel, chairman of pediatrics at Maimonides, has been a powerful voice pushing for the construction of the new building to house the Infants and Children's program. The hospital brought Shovel, a member of former President Bill Clinton's Physician Leadership Committee, onto their staff in 1997.

Five hundred guests are expected to attend the gala. Proceeds from the auction will directly benefit the new children's hospital, while the net proceeds from the gala, which usually average between \$500,000 and \$750,000, will go towards Maimonides as a whole.

## Could suits affect Brooklyn Law dorm?

By Patrick Gallahue  
The Brooklyn Papers

Brooklyn Law School made new friends with its proposal to build a 216-foot dormitory at the corner of Boerum Place and State Street. The school lost even more after its contractor knocked down an adjacent garage last month.

And while those closely watching the dormitory project, including elected officials and residents, said they were unaware of any lawsuits being filed against the school yet, the idea has been tossed around by residents of adjacent buildings and car owners who lost vehicles in the collapse.

Despite the fact that it appears to have been the contractor, Urban Foundation Engineering, which destabilized the garage, the law school could well find itself in court.

"I would sue the owner of the property next door, who happened to have the problem that brought the building down," said Mark Feinberg, a Brooklyn Heights-based attorney. "And if that owner had a contractor I would name them and if that contractor had a subcontractor they would be named."

Feinberg said if there was an engineer overseeing the construction plans, even he or she could be named in a suit.

Most agreed, however, that it would be unlikely to affect the financing of the plan since the law school's insurance will probably cover whatever damages were incurred by the col-

lapse. Santo Lombardozzi, a bond writer with Sano Brokerage, an insurance agency in Garden City, Long Island, said a case like Brooklyn Law's would not likely cause a bond owner to default. "It shouldn't affect the bond," Lombardozzi said. "This is strictly a property damage case."

The Department of Finance did not return The Brooklyn Papers' calls for information.

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for the shoring and underpinning that was being performed and failure to have the permit on-site.

A week later, the contractors were slapped with another violation after workers for Urban

Foundation Engineering were spotted removing boulders from the site, work which had not been approved by the Buildings Department.

While the contractor does have permission to shore up

the adjacent properties, no work is permitted until necessary safety studies are performed on the bordering buildings.

Ruth Prinstein, a resident of See DORMS on page 6

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# Burglar hits two

By Patrick Gallagher  
The Brooklyn Papers

Two apartments in a building on Hicks Street, between Middle and Cranberry streets, were burglarized through windows abutting the fire escape on Nov. 20. A 50-year-old resident of one of the apartments had left home at 8 am and returned shortly before 7 pm to find that closets in his bedroom and living room had been plundered. He reported \$11,000 in jewelry and a \$2,100 laptop computer stolen.

According to police, another apartment in the same building was robbed, between 10 am and 5:30 pm, of electronics, jewelry and clothing valued at more than \$14,000. Police believe the thief also entered that apartment through the fire escape.

## Hicks mug

The victim was passing through the intersection, at around 8 pm on Nov. 18, when one of the thieves grabbed her shoulder bag and took off with his cohorts.

## LEGAL NOTICES

Notice is hereby given that an Order entered by the Court, Kings County on the 23rd day of November, 2002, bearing the index number 0009292-0202, a copy of which may be examined at the Office of the Clerk, located at CIVIL COURT, KINGS COUNTY, 141 Livingston Street, Brooklyn, New York 11201, in room 507, grants me rights to: 1. Assume the name of: Supriya Shree; My present name is: Supriya Shree; My present address is: 147 Linden Street, Brooklyn, New York, My place of birth is Brooklyn, New York. My date of birth is 03/16/1987.

SUPREME COURT - KINGS COUNTY, NOV. 1998-1 TRUST AND THE BANK OF NEW YORK, AS COLLATERAL AGENT AND CUSTODIAN, PH. against PACST REALTY LLC, et al. Order, Index # 0088197. For more info, a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale dated July 15, 2002, I, will act as public auctioneer at the "front" of the Courthouse steps, facing Adams Street, 301 Adams Street, Brooklyn, NY on Saturday 11/27/02 at 10:00 am. I'm King County Book 1206, lot 28, 4400 sq. ft. and 141,200 sq. ft. plus 100 sq. ft. of land. I will submit to terms and condition of filed judgment and order of sale of the above parcel. Ref: Referee: ROLAND H. MOSKOWITZ, LLP, 400 7th Floor, 701 Westchester Ave. White Plains, NY. BPN48-51

NORTH CAROLINA, CUMBERLAND COUNTY IN THE GENERAL COURT OF JUSTICE: DISTRICT COURT DIVISION, FILE NO. 02 CIV 8077. Between: Plaintiff: Gloria Bush, Defendant: NOTICE OF SERVICE OF PROCESS BY PUBLICATION, TO: Gloria Bush, State Notice that a pleading seeking relief against you has been filed in the above entitled action. The nature of the relief sought is as follows: Absentive Divorce on the grounds of one year separation. You are required to make defense to such pleading 201 days after the date this day of November, 2002, and upon failure to do so the party seeking relief against you will be entitled to the relief sought. This is the 5th day of November, 02. Carl L. Bitt, ATTORNEY AT LAW, 204-04 Street, P.O. Box 1137, Fayetteville, N.C. 28302, Telephone: (919) 483-1114. BPN48-46

NOTICE OF SALE SUPREME COURT - COUNTY OF KING, MORTGAGE ELECTRONIC REGISTRATION SYSTEM, INC., Plaintiff Against KARL RAYMOND et al. (Defendants). Pursuant to a judgment of foreclosure and sale dated 10/10/02, I, the undersigned Referee will act as public auctioneer at the "front" of the Courthouse steps, facing Adams Street, 301 Adams Street, Brooklyn, NY on 12/18/2002 at 10:00 AM (precise time as 143 East 9th Street, Brooklyn, NY, 11201, and certain piece or parcel of land, with the buildings and improvements thereon, situated, siting and being in The Borough of Brooklyn, County of Kings City and State of New York, Book 504-222-71 plus interest and costs (Purchase money) of \$462,511 (500). Anthony Giacalone, Esq., Referee, 308 E. 14th St., Brooklyn, N.Y. (Attorney for Plaintiff), 11 East 44th Street, Suite 800, New York, NY 10017. Dated: 11/7/2002. File # A061-nac. BPN48-48

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## POLICE

The bag was later found in the schoolyard of PS 8, a block away, robbed of its valuables, including a wallet, CD player, credit cards and cell phone.

## Blame the city

A woman, tossed out of her building on Bergen Street between Third and Fourth avenues because it had been shut down by the city Department of Buildings (DOB), suffered the additional misfortune of having her apartment robbed in her absence.

The DOB shut down the building due to safety concerns, on Nov. 11, but on Nov. 18, she returned home at about 9 am, to find that someone had stolen her stereo, DVD player, VCR and jewelry.

## Cranberry burgle

A home on Cranberry Street, between Hicks and Henry streets, was robbed of a computer, jewelry and silverware valued at \$15,400.

The victim left home at around 8:20 am on Nov. 20, and returned a little before noon to find that her apartment had been burgled.

## Knocked down

A 27-year-old man was on his way up the stairs of the Bergen Street F train station at Seventh Avenue, at around 5 am on Nov. 24, when he was knocked to the ground and robbed of his wallet. As the victim lay on the ground, the mugger lifted through his pockets, saying, "Don't say a word. Where's the money?"

The thief took the victim's wallet, reported as containing \$120, credit cards and a driver's license.

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## SECRET UN SECURITY COUNCIL DEAL REVEALED?

The Lords' Witnesses believe that a secret deal has recently been done in the UN security council. We believe that this was the 'real deal' that enabled resolution 1441 to be passed unanimously and the UN weapons inspectors to return to Iraq. We believe that this deal was an agreement or was effectively an agreement for an expansion of the permanent membership of the UN Security Council to 10 members, together with an effective reduction of the veto powers of each of the 10 permanent members.

We deduce this from our decoding of the bible book of Revelation 17, a book written around 1900 years ago by the apostle John. For the full details please visit [www.truebiblecode.com](http://www.truebiblecode.com).

We accept that we do not have much physical evidence to confirm our theory at this point. However we do have the unprecedented unanimity amongst all 15 members of the security council. We have the positive vote of Syria and we have the fact that the French, who plainly wish to see the Germans take a permanent seat, proposed the accepted draft.

We would just like to state for the record, in case we are eventually proved correct, that according to our bible decoding, on or before November 8th (when resolution 1441 was unanimously passed), a secret agreement was reached in the UN security council. This agreement provided for the expansion of its permanent membership to 10 members, with the 5 new members being chosen by the US. And this agreement also provided for an effective reduction or abolition of the veto powers of all 10 permanent members.

This secret agreement (if true) would plainly be a move towards greater democratisation in the UN. Such a move has been discussed for 10 years at the UN and is known to be politically desirable to most of its member nations.

For a free copy of the website as a book please fax a request to 1-718-855-4198 or write to The Lord's Witnesses, 25 Washington St., Suite 302 Brooklyn, NY 11201 or call 1-718-855-4321.

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# Gunpoint robbery on Park Place

By Patrick Gallaugh  
The Brooklyn Papers

A man was making his way home on Park Place, between Fifth and Sixth avenues, at around 10:30 pm on Nov. 22, when he was confronted with the business end of a 9 mm handgun.

According to police, the victim, 36, was walking home from the Seventh Avenue Q station on Flatbush Avenue, when the gun-wielding thief stopped him and said, "Give it up, give me your wallet." An accomplice stood behind the victim to prevent his escape.

The thieves then made off with the man's wallet, containing \$40, credit cards and identification.

## Stabs boy, 13

A 13-year-old boy was stabbed while standing on the 1/2 subway platform at Grand Army Plaza and Flatbush Avenue at 3:30 pm on Nov. 21.

The alleged attacker was identified as a classmate at MS 340 on Sterling Place at Vanderbilt Avenue in Prospect Heights.

## POLICE

Police arrested the suspect, a 15 and recovered the knife and the suspect's clothing, which they said was stained with blood, as evidence.

Police did not list serious injuries from the attack.

## In her kitchen

A burglar came through a woman's kitchen window on Nov. 23, taking her wallet, earrings and passport.

The victim left her home on Fifth Avenue, between Bergen Street and Saint Marks Place, at around noon and returned at 9 pm to find her home had been broken into and her property gone.

## 6th St. snatch

A purse snatcher grabbed a purse that belonged to an employee of a medical office on Sixth Street, between Seventh and Eighth avenues, as it rested on the sidewalk.

The victim, 45, told police that she placed her purse on a windowsill at around 3 pm on

Nov. 20 and about an hour later it was gone, along with \$10, credit cards, identification and jewelry.

## Berkeley mug

A 43-year-old woman was on her way home from the grocery store along Berkeley

Place, between Sixth and Seventh avenues, when she was surrounded by three men who demanded money.

The victim said the trio stopped her at around 9 pm on Nov. 21, and took her wallet

containing \$15 and her credit cards.

## Gone skiing

A cold-blooded ski-bum glided off with \$2,100 in ski equipment from a Park Slope storage room in a building on Eighth

Avenue at President Street.

According to the owner of the equipment, the thief took ski boots, jacket, gloves, goggles and pants. The equipment was last seen on Oct. 21. Exactly one month later, at around 5:30 pm, the 59-year-old ski buff discovered the equipment was gone.

## Easy access

A prowler entered an apartment on 15th Street, between Sixth and Seventh avenues, making off with \$600 and a Nintendo Gameboy.

The victim, 24, returned home at 6 pm on Nov. 19, to find the front door open and his property gone.

There were no signs of forced entry and, according to police, the victim's 24-year-old roommate could not remember the door was locked.

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## LI bank, in Ridge, eyes Park Slope

The Brooklyn Papers

Dick Conti and Doug Manditch made a great team in 1967, and are poised to demonstrate their synergy once again.

The duo is heading up the Brooklyn expansion of Long Island Commercial Bank, operating since August at 415 86th St., with a 5,500-square-foot office at 375 86th St. set to open soon.

A Park Slope office may follow, Conti told The Brooklyn Papers.

Conti was president and CEO of Olympian Bank until 1999, when it was sold to EAB (now Citibank). Olympian had been a haven to small and mid-sized businesses, offering its banking products and customer service to those particular needs.

"There are many similarities in the missions of Olympian and LICB," Conti said. "Olympian was geared towards businesses and professionals, just like LICB is now."

Conti's old friend and colleague Manditch founded LICB in western Suffolk County on Long Island in 1990, and the bank has demonstrated strong growth since then. Long Island Commercial Bank's additional seven branches are located near industrial and commercial hubs in Long Island, and target firms with revenues up to \$10 million as their customer base.

Manditch, LICB's president and CEO, said the bank plans to double its size to \$800 million in five years, and estimates it will have about 20 branches by then.

"I envision other Brooklyn branches," he said. "I'd look at Bensonhurst and Park Slope as possible locations. But we're setting up the 86th Street branch as a regional Brooklyn office, rather than a simple branch office."

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# Closer look at Bridge Park plan

By Patrick Gallahue  
The Brooklyn Papers

Next month, the public will get a chance to weigh in on potential alternative uses for public and private spaces in the planned Brooklyn Bridge Park.

Last Thursday, the Citizens Advisory Council, a group of residents of the communities surrounding the planned commercial and recreational development, were given a sneak preview of some ideas that are to come.

Among the possibilities that will be explored, for both feasibility in the Environmental Impact Statement and desirability in public hearings, are measures for sound attenuation, a pedestrian and bicycle path through the park, a salt marsh in the cove area north of the Brooklyn Bridge and an update on the future status of the Purchase Building in the planned \$550 million development, \$150 million of which has been dedicated by the city and state.

With noise from the Brooklyn-Queens Expressway blasting its way to be hoped to be a bucolic oasis, planners are tweaking the various means to mitigate the sounds of traffic with a staggered bio-wall,

composed of various plantings, against Furman Street. The shape and height are now being explored to understand how best to deflect noise outward rather than up to the promenade, stretching between the Remsen and Cranberry streets above much of the proposed parkland.

"We don't want to take the noise and bounce it up to the promenade," said Michael Van Valkenburgh, whose firm is the landscape designer for the park.

With each suggestion, landscape architects from Van Valkenburgh Associates, including Van Valkenburgh himself, warned that a great deal of additional studies need to be explored.

With a pedestrian water-side walkway planned for the park, an idea for a separate bicycle path winding further upland was warmly received by the Citizens Advisory Council (CAC), instead of a parallel bikeway as is used on the Brooklyn Bridge.

The bike path would break off from the footpath, roughly at Joralemon Street, weave through the park before connecting with Furman Street at the foot of Pier 2, which is near Clark Street, and then re-enter the park at the foot of Pier 1. The

bike path would then reconnect with Furman Street at around Doughty Street and continue into Water Street.

An alternative use that was not as enthusiastically endorsed was an idea to wall off the cove area between the Manhattan and Brooklyn bridges from the currents of the East River.

An overview of the development released in 2000 proposes to create jetties on either side of the cove to calm the currents and support a salt marsh along the shoreline, with a small beach now exists.

"Everybody likes the shoreline as it is," said Michael Crane, president of the DUMBO Neighborhood Association. "They like the beach."

Though the consensus was that natural was preferable, the idea will remain part of the Dec. 14 presentation to the public.

A hotel near Pier 1 — part of the development's percent private space to financially support the public portions — has likewise presented some unique challenges to designers.

"[The parcel] has never been fully defined and now we're trying to define it," said Jim Moogan, executive director

of the Brooklyn Bridge Park Development Corporation, the entity that will build the park.

A shape for the hotel's footprint is being sought that will accommodate views of the Manhattan skyline.

According to a Brooklyn Bridge Park financial analysis, prepared in 2000, the hotel is slated to contain 409 rooms, at a daily rate estimated to be around \$235 with an occupancy rate expected to be about 82 percent.

The target group was listed as about half business and half tourist and amenities include a restaurant, gym and valet parking.

Four different footprints for

the hotel were presented, each offering varying degrees of view of the Manhattan skyline. The first two have similar outlines, with a base along Furman Street and five towers that jut out towards the East River.

The first design, however, consists of only 389 rooms at 775 square feet per room, while the second has 416 rooms at 793 square feet per room.

The third footprint shows a building with angular curves that begins with a triangular edge that slopes back towards Furman Street then has a box-like base at around where Midway Street would be extended.

That version then just back

towards the water, then back towards Furman, and curves back towards the water at the northern edge.

That footprint creates approximately enough space for 326 rooms at 869 square feet per room.

The fourth footprint creates a base for a winding building that literally snakes along the base of Pier 1, with three winding curves towards the waterside, creating enough space for 268 rooms at 933 square feet per room.

The park plan, to clear the way for a view of the river, the height of the building is not expected to exceed that of the existing Cold Storage buildings on the site.

The Purchase Building will also be back in discussion, after the city Department of Parks and Recreation proposed razing the structure last year.

A furious discussion ensued between proponents for demolition and preservationists, before the Landmarks Preservation Commission, in September 2001, because the structure is part of the Fulton Ferry Historic District.

That plan was eventually shelved by 9-11 and the Parks Department withdrew its application for demolition after the Office of Emergency Management moved into the Depression-era building.

The Purchase Building is slated to be truncated, under the park plan, to clear the way for a view of the river.

Moogan said the BBPOC would reopen that discussion on Dec. 14. Additional discussion on

Thursday included the Tobacco Warehouse as a potential performance space, circulation routes for vehicles on Pier 1, landscape adjustments at Pier 5 and Squibb Park, and parking facilities.

Each of these alternatives will be incorporated in the Environmental Impact Statement, which is expected to begin in January or February. A design team is to be selected around the same time.

All these alternatives, among other issues, will be presented to the public on Saturday, Dec. 14, at St. Ann's Warehouse, on White Street between Dock and Main streets in DUMBO, from 10 am to noon.

The meeting is open to the public but the BBPOC is urging anyone interested in attending to reserve a space by calling (212) 977-5597, ext. 229, before Dec. 11.

## Girl kidnapped and raped D'town

By Patrick Gallahue  
The Brooklyn Papers

A 17-year-old girl was kidnapped at gunpoint and raped as she walked to school Downtown, according to police.

The victim told police that while passing the corner of Jo-

rolemon Street and Boerum Place, near Borough Hall, at around 8 am on Nov. 20, a man engaged her in conversation and raped by the man who had approached her as the driver held her at gunpoint. She was treated at Kings County Hospital and released shortly after.

No suspects have been arrested and the investigation is ongoing.

**Rape up**

While crime in the 84th Precinct, covering Brooklyn Heights, Downtown, Boerum Hill and DUMBO, is down by about five percent compared to

last year, reports of rape have drastically increased according to statistics provided by the New York Police Department.

At this time last year, there were five rapes filed with the 84th Precinct. This year, the number rose to 14 — an increase of 180 percent, including this week's incident.

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On October 23rd, CNR's Center for Nursing and Rehabilitation, located at 520 Prospect Place, hosted a Pastoral Breakfast Seminar. More than 50 local religious leaders gathered to discuss issues pertaining to the health and well being of their congregations. A panel of guest speakers addressed various healthcare topics through presentations and by responding to questions from the audience.

Panel participants included Senator Velmanette Montgomery of the 18th Senatorial District, Dr. Dee Moody of the Vanguard Urban Improvement Association, Reverend Sheryl Anthony, Chair of Central Brooklyn Churches, and Opelia Perry, President of Church Woman United. In addition to getting the latest information on Brooklyn's healthcare issues, the clergy were able to schedule free screening and seminars, obtain complimentary educational material and book tours of CNR facilities for members of their congregations.

"We couldn't be more pleased with the turnout we received," said Jacqueline Kennedy-Sadler, Community Relations Coordinator at CNR. "Together we have taken a big step towards future efforts to provide our community with the healthcare services they need."

For more information about the forum or any of CNR's programs call (877) 4CNR-CALL (877) 426-7225. CNR Health Care Network has been serving Brooklyn and Queens since 1978 with a full range of long-term care services, including: adult care, hospice, sub-acute care, short-term in-patient rehabilitation and specialized HIV/AIDS home care.

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# Tale of two BAMlands emerging

By Patrick Gallaue  
The Brooklyn Papers

Two plans are underway for a planned cultural district in Fort Greene.

The BAM Local Development Corporation's (LDC) designs for the cultural district continue, as does the planning by a consortium of community groups, known as the Concerned Citizens Coalition (CCC), who are creating additional recommendations for the development.

The BAM LDC is chaired by former Brooklyn Academy of Music executive director Harvey Lichtenstein and its board of directors includes real estate magnate Bruce Ratner. "Our plan is always going to be something that is evolutionary," said LDC spokesman Lee Silberstein. "We will be able to incorporate their suggestions even after we issue our plans."

The CCC, meanwhile, is swiftly convening public meetings to put together its own "supplementary plan" intended to balance the LDC's vision for the community with what the group sees as overlooked community needs.

"Everyone's aware of the fact that we need to make some expedition moves given the current fiscal climate," said Assemblyman Roger Green, who supported the CCC's supplementary plan with a \$50,000 allocation. "The negotiations between BAM LDC and the CCC are ongoing within that spirit."

Certain LDC projects have already moved forward, such as plans for 80 Hanson Pl., a 30,000-square-foot building at the corner of South Portland Avenue, geared towards office space for small arts groups. The building is expected to open next year. But with virtually every capital project in the city and state eyed for cuts, the cultural district, with its \$80 million in public funding, might not feel too comfortable with its commitments.

Silberstein said that the LDC was hopeful that the funds would be available as needed and that, "If money does get pushed back we're confident that it will be compatible with the sequencing of the sites."

The current design for the cultural district also includes arts space, housing and retail develop-

ments on four current parking lots — bounded by Flatbush Avenue, Lafayette Avenue, Fulton Street and Ashland Place — surrounding the Brooklyn Academy of Music.

Segments of the surrounding community have been hit at one with portions of the plan, fearing displacement, gentrification, overcommercialization and the exclusion of the local community in the benefits.

While three public planning sessions were held between December and June, the collective volume of concerned voices was not publicly raised until July when Greene and state Sen. Velmanette Montague announced the CCC's formation — consisting of local clergy, activists, elected officials and arts groups — and the \$50,000 allocation from the assemblyman to embark on a "supplementary plan."

The first CCC town hall meeting, last month, packed 400 people into the Brooklyn Music School, and featured a series of broad piercing comments about



Harvey Lichtenstein



Bruce Ratner

BAM and the planned cultural district, excoriating the institution for what the group called its lacking racial diversity and negligible benefits of the plan to the existing community.

On Tuesday, Nov. 19, the first of CCC's subcommittee meetings, however, the criticisms of the LDC's plans began to be tempered by actual suggestions.

The subcommittee sessions, divided into the categories of housing, education, arts and culture and economic development, were strikingly similar to the three meetings hosted by

the BAM LDC. The meetings, however, were void of spin as members of the CCC facilitated discussion on the plan. Ideas, some practical, others less so, were tossed out and listed on large pieces of paper, similar to what the LDC had used several months earlier.

In the arts and culture subcommittee meeting, for example, those in attendance took issue that the LDC's plan does not specifically benefit children. While community benefits are a required criterion for arts groups seeking inclusion

in the cultural district, many in the arts and culture subcommittee meeting wanted children to be unequivocally targeted for programs.

"The educational component cannot be left to luck or chance," said Carlton Bush, of Scientific Machine Filmworks. "I think it has to be mandated that a certain percentage be included."

Additional ideas included mapping an inventory of existing arts groups within the community, as well as a space and skills bank and joint marketing for arts groups.

The housing subcommittee suggestions included community preference for housing, particularly in Fort Greene, Cobble Hill and Bedford-Stuyvesant, with an emphasis on lower income residents.

The subsidized housing already included in the LDC plan — in a median range between \$60,000 and \$100,000 per household — was slammed by elected officials such as Green, as still not affordable to the community.

In the economic development subcommittee, recommendations included expanding construction contracts to minority and women-owned businesses to 25 percent.

The LDC has pledged to offer 20 percent of the contracts to minority and women-owned businesses and an additional 15 percent of the building projects to local companies. Participants also sought to have 25 percent of post-construction contracts for retail and other commercial components, go to local entrepreneurs.

Professional services, such as lawyers, are asked to be included in the LDC's budget as well as assistance to existing and aspiring businesses.

In education, mentoring programs and contracts with local schools have been suggested for inclusion, as well as development in five areas: theater, music, visual arts, film and dance.

Craig Whitaker, a Manhattan-based architect, has been enlisted to incorporate the concerns of the community into the supplementary plan.



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## FOR SALE...

Continued from page 1

Joel Klein lives in his own 10th-floor apartment but with no housing allowance. The State Street residence has five bedrooms and four bathrooms. It is being rented by the city as a single-family home for a reported \$8,000 a month.

Of the 900 Education Department employees that worked in 110 Livingston St., about 600 have been relocated to the Tweed Courthouse next door to City Hall.

Former Mayor Rudy Giuliani had long sought to dismantle the poorly run Board of Ed and its inefficient Downtown Brooklyn headquarters. But Bloomberg was able to get the job done, gaining the approval of the state Legislature to dismantle the old central Board of Ed and center more power in his office. He then created the Department of Education in its place, hired a new schools chancellor and headquartered the revamped agency in the remodeled Tweed Courthouse.

Shortly after Bloomberg announced his intention to move the Board of Ed into Manhattan last March, Borough President Marty Markowitz expressed concern that jobs would leave Downtown Brooklyn, but added, "[Bloomberg] has assured me that he will develop a viable plan for the privatization of 110 Livingston St., a plan that will ensure the replacement of all lost jobs with relocated private- or public-sector firms."

This week, the mayor's office said the building would be primarily residential but with retail or academic uses on the lower floors.

Seemingly ignoring the mayor's intention of having up to 250 apartments in the building, Markowitz praised the pending sale and optimistically ploved ahead with his thoughts on what the building should house: "We are looking forward to working with the administration to come up with the most appropriate redevelopment plan for this prime location," Markowitz said in a release. "I believe this would be an excellent opportunity for a



Borough President Marty Markowitz with Mayor Michael Bloomberg Monday.

The Brooklyn Papers / Tom Callan

mid-sized American corporation to relocate its national headquarters to Brooklyn."

Markowitz also praised the mayor for keeping about 1,000 Education Department employees at 131 Livingston St. and at 65 Court St.

Only 200 or 300 employees remain at 110 Livingston St., and they will likely be moved to one of the other two Downtown Brooklyn buildings, an Education Department spokesman said.

City Planning Commission and the City Council.

The sale of the chancellor's quarters will also have to pass through LLURP for the disposition of city-owned property. The current renter has a lease that runs through April, according to Education Department spokesman Kevin Ortiz.

As to how that building would be sold, either through open bidding by the Department of Citywide Administrative Services or through an RFP process, Ortiz said, "It's too early to get into specifics."

Giuliani did get as far as issuing an RFP for the sale of 110 Livingston St., which garnered 10 proposals for rental units, condominiums or dormitory space for local academic institutions.

Built in 1926 by the architectural firm McKim Mead and White — the designers of the old Penn Station, the New York Herald Building and the Morgan Library — 110 Livingston St. was taken over by the Board of Ed in 1939.

Long a symbol of the city's bureaucracy-bloated school system, Giuliani proposed blowing the building up before trying to sell it.

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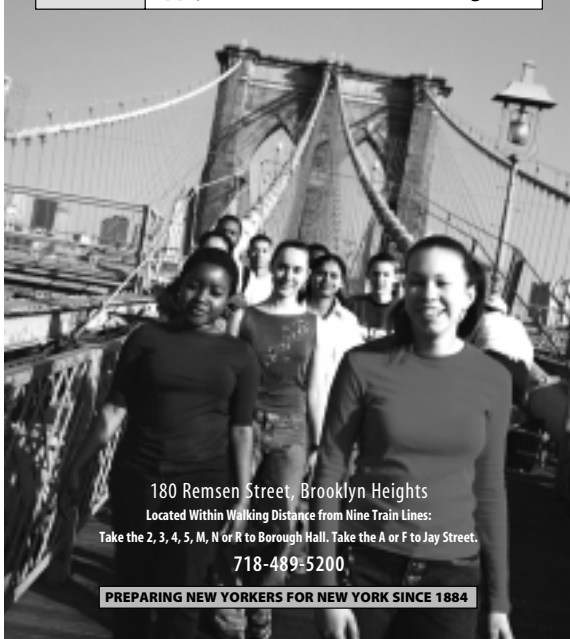
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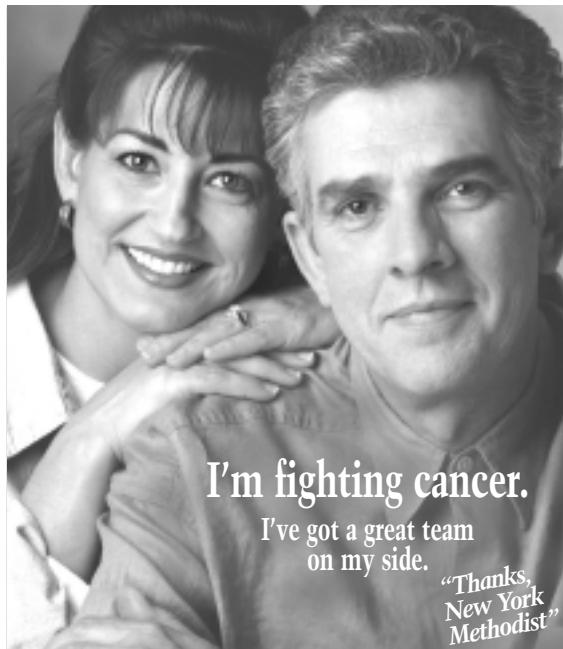
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# Atlantic stores ready for hard times

By Patrick Gallahue  
The Brooklyn Papers

From brightened demarcations to jumping on the BoCoCa bandwagon, Atlantic Avenue merchants and activists are exploring a number of short-term solutions to a shopping strip still recovering from a long and arduous street reconstruction and the retail drag after 9-11.

Among them: service with a smile.

"Customers need to feel comfortable, to feel welcome"

said Sandy Balboa, president of the Atlantic Avenue Betterment Association (AABA).

Service signage and merchant collaboration are but a few of the initiatives Avenue merchants are exploring under the guidance of a consultant hired with a \$7,500 grant from the Independence Community Foundation.

"One thing that we've found is that Atlantic Avenue is experiencing the same sort of retail street reconstruction and the retail drag after 9-11."

"Customers need to feel comfortable, to feel welcome"

MB Retail Consulting.

Saying that Atlantic Avenue is now receiving "stylish merchants, which are sort of in contrast to the traditional antiques and Mid-Eastern shops," Berne said the biggest challenge has been defining the avenue to the public.

"A lot of the study has been on trying to get that message across," he said. "Unfortunately Atlantic Avenue is probably the least known of all that has happened in the area."

Balboa is exploring grants to improve signage on the store-

fronts to maximize the potential to draw in pedestrians, and merchants are submitting their own ideas for a shopping guide that is being designed for an area they're trying to market as "BoCoCa."

In the vein of SoHo and TriBeCa, BoCoCa is the brainchild of Christopher Branstetter, a graphic designer who created a shopping guide for Smith Street earlier this year.

Beginning on Smith Street, but now incorporating Court Street and Atlantic Avenue, BoCoCa is a contraction of

Boerum Hill, Cobble Hill and Carroll Gardens, neighborhoods that the three commercial strips straddle.

"I think it makes complete sense to think of Atlantic Avenue and Court Street and Smith Street as one unit," Berne said. "Because they are essentially serving the same market."

A report on the avenue is due out later this year, by Berne incorporating some of the ideas that have been presented so far.

"I think the long-term outlook for Atlantic Avenue is

very good, you have a Target coming in at Atlantic Terminal and development at Hoyt Schermerhorn," he said. "The short-term is where they've been hurting."

The water main project began in February 2000, to replace primary and secondary water main lines on Atlantic Avenue, between Columbia Place and Fourth Avenue and on Clinton Street, from Bush Street to Atlantic Avenue.

Large portions of the avenue were pushed into two lanes of traffic as the roadway was excavated, making it difficult to cross the street and virtually eliminating parking.

While the past two years have been difficult, the future looks brighter.

A master plan is currently underway for the corridor, headed by the Atlantic Avenue Local Development Corporation (LDC).

Over the past year and a half, the LDC, in concert with an advisory coalition of more than 20 community groups, known as the Leadership Conference, has sought to develop an abstract vision for the avenue between the waterfront and Flatbush Avenue.

Planning sessions began in October, to seek consensus on how to make the avenue more pedestrian-friendly, to build on the avenue's increasing retail presence and to agree on traffic-management policies.

The firm of HS Development Partners has been selected to develop a nearly 100,000-square-foot site bounded by Schermerhorn, Hoyt, Smith and State streets, into apartment buildings, townhouses, student housing, loft-style residences and retail space.

A roughly 60,000-square-foot lot bordered by Schermerhorn, Hoyt, Smith and State streets is to be developed by IBEK Building Corporation and Strategic Construction. That project includes rental apartments, townhouses, a charter school and ground-floor retail.

And in spring of last year, a plan by developer Shaya B. was selected by the Empire State Development Corp. for a lot along Smith Street between Atlantic Avenue and State Street.

## Talkin' turkey

Borough President Marty Markowitz hoists a turkey during Borough Hall giveaway. Among those picking up birds for their charities were (l to r) Ophelia Perry of Catholic Women United and Margaret Keaveney from Catholic Charities.

## GATEWAY...

Continued from page 1

Van Brunt Street, and spanning south to Hamilton Avenue — to make way for an off-street bicycle path, possibly with a curb or grassy area to keep the path separate from traffic, that will be constructed by the city Department of Transportation (DOT).

Dan Maynard, manager of Community and Government Relations for the Port Authority, said there will be tree plantings inside the fence line in addition to lighting, improved signage and redesigned entry gates.

The Port Authority work is scheduled to finish before the end of 2003. The DOT is scheduled to start street reconstruction, including the addition of the bicycle path, in the spring of 2004, according to DOT spokeswoman Lisa de Bourbon, who added that the job should take about two years.

David Lutz, executive director of the Neighborhood Open Space Coalition, said, however, that neither the DOT nor the Port Authority's plans take into account plans for a Brooklyn Waterfront Greenway, an idea to create a 30-foot-wide Hudson River Park-style bicycle and pedestrian trail along the waterfront.

"The greenway is part of a vision," Lutz said. "And the traffic engineers had another vision — they thought this could be a corridor for overflow from the [Brooklyn-Queens Expressway]."

As the DOT has undertaken a massive traffic-calming project in and around Downtown Brooklyn, Columbia Street has literally remained a blank page on the plans, largely because designs were already being discussed for the reconstruction.

"In adjacent communities streets are being narrowed by the relocation of parking racks, neck downs, various tucks," Lutz said. "In the Columbia Street plan, Columbia is being widened."

Traffic lanes are expected to be widened from 10 feet to 12 feet, de Bourbon said, to facilitate the movement of cars and buses along the road.

The DOT project will revamp along Columbia Street to DeWag Street, down to Van Brunt Street to Hamilton Avenue, with the off-street bike path incorporated into about 80 percent of the project, where the Port Authority has made the extra space available to the DOT.

The other 20 percent, on the west side of Van Brunt Street, between Sackett Street and Hamilton Avenue, is private property and the agency will instead have a painted lane for bicyclists on the east side of the street.

It remains one of the only sore points for Community Board 6 since bicyclists will have to cross from the west side of Van Brunt Street to the east side at Sackett Street, raising concerns that cars will present a hazard to cyclists. Those concerns are still being reviewed by the DOT.

Craig Hammerman, district manager of CB6, applauded the Port Authority's plans.

"We're thrilled that the Port Authority took this project on because it's purely to benefit the surrounding communities,"

Hammerman said.

"Everything that's been discussed publicly and presented publicly includes a continuous recreational path from Atlantic Avenue and Columbia to Van Brunt and Hamilton, the large majority of which will be off-street," Hammerman said of protesters that the street reconstruction fell short of a greenway.

The entire street reconstruction, including repaving, new sidewalks and streetlights, will take place on Columbia Street, from Atlantic Avenue to Hamilton Avenue, on DeWag Street, from Van Brunt Street to Hamilton Avenue, and on Carroll Street, from Columbia to Hicks Street, de Bourbon added.

Including a city Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) project to replace water lines and upgrade sewage pipes in the area, the total tally for the project is anticipated to cost \$17 million.

Meanwhile, the Port Authority's plan at the foot of Atlantic Avenue is taking place independent of a massive planning effort by the Brooklyn Bridge Park Development Corporation (BBPDC), a subsidiary of the Empire State Development Corporation for a 1.3-mile commercial and recreational development between the Manhattan Bridge and Pier 6 into the plan.

Jim Moogan, the executive director of the BBPDC, refused questions to the Port Authority, saying that the BBPDC is not involved in what happens with Brooklyn Bridge Park, we wanted to do this anyway."

While advocates for the park and planners are still hoping to align Pier 6 into the plan — with fresh ideas presented by Lutz for a traffic circle, replete with green traffic islands — the issues between Pier 6's current function as the storage portion of the Red Hook Marine Terminal, and its incorporation into the park, have yet to be resolved.

"Obviously, it's a space up the appearance of the pier, but longer term, in terms of what may be done in [regards to] access to the park from Atlantic Avenue has not been resolved," Maynard said. "We do have this issue that Pier 6 is currently a marine facility so doing anything beyond that would require some discussion between the city of New York, the state of New York and the Port Authority."

Seeking to alleviate pedestrian traffic on Joralemon Street, Brooklyn Bridge Park planners have identified Atlantic Avenue as the main entrance point for the commercial and recreational development.

"What we all understand is that the acquisition of Pier 6 will go a long way towards resolving this problem," Ken Greenberg, a consultant to the BBPDC, said last Thursday at a meeting of the BBPDC's Citizens Advisory Council. "In the meantime, we're carrying along with a number of alternatives that we can go forward with."

Among them is creating an entrance at Atlantic Avenue that would wind around the Watchtower building between Joralemon Street and Atlantic Avenue.

## FIREHOUSES...

Continued from page 1

engine companies; and cutting the number of ambulances on duty.

Under the agreement between the council and the mayor, the firehouses would remain open, and ambulances would not be cut, although the number of firefighters in some engine companies would still be reduced from five to four.

The panel, meanwhile, will study how to cut about \$2.5 million from the Fire Department's budget. Both Yasky and DeBlasio said the recommendations are hoped to be made public in the next couple of months.

Yasky said a specific means for public input into the process has yet to be developed.

On Sunday, outside Engine 204, moods were bright, albeit cautious, as elected officials — including Borough President Marty Markowitz, Assemblywoman Joan Millman, Park Slope Councilman Bill DeBlasio and Yasky — firefighters and residents celebrated the announcement.

"The battle is not over and we will have to stay together," said DeBlasio outside Engine 204.

Save your buttnes, save your signs," warned Assemblywoman Joan Millman.

So we've got to get a reprieve as they call it," said Firefighter Tom Westhoff, a resident of Carroll Gardens. "I'm relieved but we'll see what happens come June or July and if we'll have to fight again."

Westhoff said the firehouse had collected 6,000 signatures for a petition in protest of the proposed closures.

The companies on the shopping block were Engine 204, Engine 278, on Seventh Avenue between 50th and 51st streets in Sunset Park; Engine 212 in Greenpoint; Engine 209 in Bedford-Stuyvesant; and Squad 252 in Bushwick, which would have been moved to the quarters of an engine company in Midtown Manhattan. Additional closures were in Woodhaven, Queens; 203 in Union Avenue, Queens; and Engine 36 in East Harlem.

Throughout the week, people



David Yasky, Marty Markowitz, Craig Hammerman, Bill DeBlasio, Joan Millman and Howard Graubard celebrate outside Engine 204 on Degraw and Court streets. Brooklyn Papers / Tom Gallahue

ple have gathered to protest Bloomberg's proposal including on Friday outside Engine 278.

DeBlasio and newly elected Sunset Park Councilwoman San Gonzalez, joined protesters and members of the Sunset Park-based Brooklyn Chinese American Association, to deride the cuts.

"The city is in trouble," Gonzalez said on Friday. "Everything is on the table but the essential services must stay."

The speeches were then drowned out by the blowing of whistles and chants of support from a group of fifth graders of the Peace from A-

to-Z (PAZ) after-school program at PS 24.

Children took turns at the podium to say, "Please don't close our firehouse."

Continued from page 2

neighboring 96 Schermerhorn St., a member of the Boerum Hill Association, said an idea had been floated at a meeting of residents, for the car owners to unite as a group and have an attorney to negotiate with the law school's lawyers, though she didn't think the idea was ever undertaken.

The building has since hired engineers to study the building and, she added, "There's no indication that there is any structural damage" to 96 Schermerhorn St. Earlier this year, neighborhood groups banded together in opposition to Brooklyn Law's

plans for a 22-story, 230-unit dormitory at the corner of State Street and Boerum Place to house 400 students, on the grounds that it would violate the Special Downtown Brooklyn District (SDBD), which was instituted last year to limit future building height to 120 feet as well as to limit bulk.

A 216-foot dorm was subsequently approved by the city. Asked if she thought any lawsuits might arise, Pointe laughed and said, "If there were any grounds, I think there are a number of people who would love to sue the law school."

Continued from page 1

quirements for transportation, accommodations to accommodate students, security and facilities. International contenders also include Paris, London, Moscow, Madrid and Istanbul.

Hailing the Olympics as an opportunity to reclaim Brooklyn's abandoned waterfront and connect it to the rest of the city by high-speed ferry, Doctoroff announced plans for a 25-acre park in Williamsburg and said that Coney Island will see the long-awaited construction of the new 38-faced Sportsplex.

"The IOC is looking for action now," Ken Adams, president of both the Brooklyn Chamber of Commerce and the Brooklyn Sports Foundation, told The Brooklyn Papers this week. "And the Brooklyn Sportsplex is where the city can take immediate action."

Mixed in city politics, plans for the Sportsplex — a proposed multi-use complex for aquatic athletics — originated several years ago, but were killed in 2000 when then-Mayor Rudy Giuliani and former Mayor Abe Stark skating rink, which is adjacent to the parking lot for KeySpan Park, and connecting the sports facilities.

"Late last year, [we] modified

the design to make it fit on the site next to the baseball stadium," Adams told The Papers in February. "When the plan dried on KeySpan Park, we made some minor changes to the plan."

The position of Sportsplex has been moved 90 degrees from the entrance will face West 10th Street, rather than Surf Avenue, as it had in the previous diagrams. The plan also made way for parking by placing the venue atop a deck with parking underneath.

The roughly \$70 million Sportsplex project, led by the all volunteer not-for-profit Brooklyn Sports Foundation, would create a climate-controlled arena with a seating capacity of 14,500 and would include a 200-foot, eight-lane track around an NCAA regulation basketball court. Facilities for martial arts, gymnastics, volleyball and other athletic activities would also be available to the community, Adams explained.

Run as a not-for-profit, the facility would be partly funded by commercial entities, including conferences, trade and consumer shows, and family entertainment.

During the Olympics, the Sportsplex would be a ferry ride from the Olympic Village in Queens and a 55-minute subway ride from Manhattan. New York City has less than three years to prove to the IOC that it is a strong contender.

make her art. Other objects she'll be holding onto include two pairs of overalls, long underwear and a winter coat.

The point Kayne says she's trying to get across is about value, and the value we place on objects.

"I think objects will have a bigger, more beautiful life with somebody else, because they take on new meaning, new life," she explains.

Kayne's deeds about the project emerge briefly at times, like while sitting on her bed flipping through old sticker books and photo albums, including shots of her parents from the 1960s. She pauses when she comes to a photograph of her childhood rabbit, Oshai.

But Kayne holds true to her mission. "I don't need it," she says philosophically. "I don't need it."

Despite some reservations, all of her photographs will be for sale with explanations attached.

## DORMS...

Continued from page 2

neighboring 96 Schermerhorn St., a member of the Boerum Hill Association, said an idea had been floated at a meeting of residents, for the car owners to unite as a group and have an attorney to negotiate with the law school's lawyers, though she didn't think the idea was ever undertaken.

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## What to do when he plays with dolls

Q: "My 4-year-old nephew likes to play with Barbie dolls and wear high-heeled shoes. Is this a phase or do we have something to worry about? Most other things he does seem to be like a normal boy. Is there anything we can do to discourage this behavior without damaging him mentally?" — an uncle

A: As a 3-year-old boy kicks off his firefighter boots and dons pink plastic high-heeled shoes, his mother remarks: "My husband would die (if he knew)." The boy adds sparkly necklaces and delights in the click-clack of the wobbly shoes. Meanwhile, his buddies, a girl and a boy, fight over who gets to push a doll carriage.

What's to worry about when a preschooler's imagination is unfettered by stereotypes? Nothing, experts and parents say. "The more you fuss, the more the child will want to wear the high-heeled shoes," one mother says. "I have delightful pictures of little boys in my daughter's dresses at age 4. They are now married with children."

When preschool boys want to play with dolls, dress up as the princess, or caress silky material, it's the adults who have issues with the choices, says family therapist Michael Gurian.

"This is normal, normal," says Gurian, author of "The Wonder of Boys" (Putnam, 1996) and "The Soul of the Child" (Atria Books, 2002). "Don't involve yourselves in it. They are opening a Pandora's box if they try to invade the boy's development."

### Parent-to-Parent



By Betsy Flieger

tal path because of their biases as adults." Gurian suggests that adults concerned about a boy's choices need to tune into their own biases. Separate what's your issue and what is the child's issue.

"Worrying won't do any good," Brazelton says in his book newly out in paperback, "Touchpoints 3 to 6" (Perseus, 2002).

"Whatever their sexuality turns out to be, you cannot change it, and it will need your acceptance. Most often, T. Berry Brazelton, MD, has gotten many letters from parents and grandparents who are worried if their son wants to play with dolls or dress up in girl's clothes.

dress-up behavior at this age is short-lived and has little bearing on sexual identification."

At about age 3, a child is starting to become aware of his or her gender. Preschoolers need opportunities to play with both boys and girls, and to choose from an array of toys and dress-up clothes. As social pressures increase, gender roles become more clearly defined by about first grade.

"This 4-year-old boy will gradually make internal, conscious decisions about his gender identity," Gurian says. "He is trying to develop his self-concept."

But if loved ones interfere in a preschooler's developmental experimentation, he may feel ashamed and somehow defective or become defiant, Gurian says.

Squashing the boy's choices and feelings will only make problems for him as he gets older, says a stepmother. "They should allow him to act how he pleases and to play with what he wants. Show him that being himself is okay," the stepmother says.

Other comments from readers: "One mom, who recalls her 3-year-old son played with Barbie dolls more than his sister did, was surprised to discover that her son liked Barbie because of her shape. "A grandmother recalls how her grandson loved to walk around in his other grandma's high heels. "We didn't make an issue of it," she says, and the child lost interest in fancy footwear after several months. "A toddler was attracted to the colors and textures in his sister's dress-up trunk. His mother expanded her children's choices and added a black cape lined with satin, floppy hats, belts and vests.

"Buy the boy a Ken doll, says a mother. "I raised four sons on my own. Boys do play with Barbies. The uncle should not be the least bit concerned."

### Can you help?

"We have a 3-year-old daughter and a 6-month-old baby girl. My wife is a wonderful mother. The last couple months, when my wife walks in the room or picks up our daughter from mother's morning out, she gives her mean looks, pitches a fit or acts like she dislikes her mother.

"This makes my wife feel bad. Is that typical behavior? Sometimes my daughter does it to me, but I'm away a lot."

— a Navy pilot

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## Jewish Day School on Upper East Side recruits in Cob' Hill

The Brooklyn Papers

A Jewish Day School on the Upper East Side will hold a parlor meeting in Cobble Hill on Tuesday, Dec. 3 at 7:45 pm, to introduce its program to parents in Brownstone Brooklyn.

Ramaz, with classes from nursery through high school in separate lower, middle and upper school buildings, has been drawing a growing number of students from Brooklyn in recent years. The school's program, which covers both secular and Judaic studies, has

attracted youngsters from both Conservative and Orthodox backgrounds.

Ramaz principal, Rabbi Haskel Lookstein, principal of Ramaz, members of the Ramaz administration and Brownstone Brooklyn parents of Ramaz students, will be present to answer questions.

Parents interested in exploring Ramaz as an option for their children in coming years are invited to attend.

For the location of the parlor meeting, call Ramaz at (212) 774-8045.

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# OPINION

## OPINION

### Rich feed off us turkeys

**T**ERRORISM will never destroy this republic. No "rogue nation" or Bin Laden or Saddam Hussein will bring us to our knees, with "weapons of mass destruction." What will cause our downfall will simply be greed.

As we sit at our family gatherings this Thanksgiving holiday, the 99 percent of us who share in but 13-15 percent of this nation's wealth, we should be thankful that "facts" do not lie, and that the truth is but a cockatrice. In Kevin Phillips' excellent "Wealth and Democracy: A Political History of the American Rich" (Broadway Books, 2002), he states repeatedly how the 1 percent of our population (earning 85-87 percent of America's wealth) "feed off" we turkeys. In the 2001 economic report of the president, it states that corporate taxes in 1950 were 26.5 percent of total federal tax receipts while employee payroll taxes were 6.9 percent of the same receipts. In 2000, corporate taxes were 10 percent and payroll taxes 51 percent. In the late-1960's corporate CEO pay was around 25 times that of their hourly workers. In 1988, it averaged to 93 times. By 1999, it was up to 410 times!

On top of that, U.S. workers, who in the '50s and '60s worked fewer hours than their Japanese and European counterparts, now work more than workers of any other industrialized nation. So, in essence, the 1 percent have gotten their bread (or bought?) reps to make laws shifting the burden from the super rich to the overworked.

## LETTERS

### Sick & tired of those car-free park complainers

To the editor:

I am so sick of these people who want to ban the cars ("Rally for car-free park," Nov. 4). Who do they think they are? This is a public park and that means for EVERYONE.

When we (car owners) are not allowed to drive through the park during the spring and summer months the traffic is horrendous getting around the park. The school buses cannot get through the narrow streets around the park and therefore, the traffic takes forever. For example when the park opens (to traffic) at 4 pm, it takes me five minutes to get through and out at Ocean Parkway. The center, around the park, the circle and down Prospect Park SW takes over 25 minutes.

Can't they be fair to everyone and not just the joggers and dog owners? Talking about "things going to the dogs," that's what they want with the park.

Most of these protesters do not remember when you couldn't walk through the park without getting mugged or murdered? I am one of the native Brooklynites who fought for the safety in the park and now they are telling me I can't use it. Thank you, [Department of Transportation] for considering everyone's needs here in this crowded city.

The protesters don't like it they can go back to Kansas as that is probably where most of them come from.

— Anne Conroy, Park Slope

### Atlantic traffic numbers way off

To the editor:

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## PHIL FARRUGGIO

Calling all baby boomers: think back to your childhood. How many of you had mom home while dad "won the bread?" During the '50s and '60s more families had one major wage earner — many mothers worked part time. Now, Thanksgiving 2002, it's a "jimmie" that both parents work or their house or car gets repossessed. How many of you out there took a job because "of the benefits" and sacrificed low pay and terrible job conditions (mean, cheap bosses, no frills workplace)?

Irony, like irony, always hurts when hot. The irony is that during this present election cycle, as in all others for that matter, real economic issues (like the aforementioned) were never made public.

The media, owned and run by the 1 percent, were too busy giving us the "stuffing, not the meat!"

So, fellow turkeys, we are the 99 percent of this nation — they are the minority. Let's raise our voices and demand reform, locally, statewide and nationally.

Remember, the turkey that runs around only looking "straight ahead" usually wins up on someone's dinner table!

Phil Farruggio is a Brooklyn-born and educated (Brooklyn College '74) baby boomer currently residing in Florida. He can be reached at [brooklynphil@yahoo.com](mailto:brooklynphil@yahoo.com).

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Please sign your correspondence and include your address and phone number, so we can contact you if needed.

Letters may be edited for space and clarity.

The "350,000-400,000 [cars] using Atlantic Avenue as an ingress and egress to the Brooklyn-Queens Expressway" are too high by a factor of 10, more than twice the volumes on the BOE itself, and which, if true, would stymie measures to redirect traffic that has no need to use Atlantic Avenue.

The mistaken numbers also lead to the inappropriate comparisons attributed to the consultant to retail streets in Manhattan, which are successful (due largely to far greater density) in spite of high volumes that result from Manhattan's overall traffic saturation, but which function very differently from Atlantic Avenue. And none of the Manhattan streets, except Broadway, where it is 130 feet wide, not 75 feet wide, as stated, are the kind of grand boulevard that is envisioned for Atlantic Avenue. Neither are any of these streets victimized by proximity to a highway exit, as is Atlantic Avenue, where in-street tractor trailers are forced off the BOE by height limitations of the Brooklyn Bridge overpass and are given no clear route back to the highway.

A correct depiction of the block-by-block variation of traffic volumes in the Atlantic Avenue corridor is essential to understanding how to relieve the avenue of much of the traffic that serves no local purpose. The actual lower volume at the BOE end of Atlantic Avenue (which works as a local street) shows why making Furman Street two-way would be so effective in relieving Atlantic Avenue of roadway trucks without imposing an undue burden on Old Fulton Street.

Maps of available traffic data show that the highest contributor to Atlantic Avenue east of Boerum Place are cars going to and coming from the Brooklyn Bridge, many of these drivers traveling out of their way to avoid the toll on the Brooklyn-Battery Tunnel. Equal tolls on the East River bridges would reduce this unwanted traffic.

For traffic that remains in the corridor, the low traffic volumes on parallel streets, Livingston and Schermerhorn, show the importance of implementing a long-standing Community Board 2 resolution to reorganize a few streets to take advantage of this huge unused capacity. While a reduced traffic burden on Atlantic Avenue could facilitate all sorts of pedestrian amenities, six safety measures could be implemented without waiting. To reduce speeding during the green stretches of green time, shorten the signal cycles and introduce signals at mid-block. To give pedestrians more protection when crossing, replace the lead time for pedestrians (which works as a local street) with a red light at Clinton Street and Atlantic Avenue. Install walk signals that alert pedestrians to look both ways for turning vehicles (the biggest cause of pedestrian crashes), and set back the stop bars for vehicles 10 feet from the crosswalks.

Other measures to improve travel throughout the Atlantic Avenue corridor and prevent spillover traffic into adjacent residential streets could be tested with traffic modeling.

— Brian Ketchum, traffic engineer  
Community Consulting Services  
Downtown Brooklyn

### Don't 'spot zone' on Third Street

To the editor:

This letter is in response to an application for a variance for property at 130 Third St. to live on Second Street near the school yard.

While I understand that adding another residential property most likely will increase the value of my home, I am opposed to the variance application. I am not opposed to more residential land use along the canal, yet I am opposed to what amounts to "spot zoning."

This variance, not unlike those for the property on Inland Street ("CBE rejects Red Hook condominium plan," Nov. 25) and the new Brooklyn Law School dorm (on State Street and Boerum Hill) runs counter to the idea that the

community should decide what is best for the community. This is why we have zoning laws, land use statutes and other structures on development. These laws ensure the rights of adjacent property owners and residents to light and air, and against shadows, excessive traffic and pollution. Why should we give in to a property owner or developer who can hire expensive lawyers and architects to plead his case of poverty?

Again, I am not opposed to more residences in the area. I am simply opposed to spot zoning. I would like for the community to engage in a debate about rezoning parts of the canal area — perhaps Carroll or Union streets should be more residential; perhaps Third Street could be more residential, but only if the street were narrowed; perhaps the west side of the canal should have more homes and the east side remain light industrial.

But inserting 48 families into a mix that includes a concrete-crushing plant, a marble-cutting operation, an oil-delivery company, and other manufacturing concerns is only a recipe for complaints, litigation and headaches.

— Michael King, architect, Park Slope

### Remembers different old Brooklyn College

To the editor:

I resent your skewed and biased report on Brooklyn College ("Brooklyn College: from 'red' to cutting edge" by Tom Markov, Nov. 4) in its early days, and I do not know what million write-ups you used as background.</

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The Brooklyn Papers' essential guide to the Borough of Kings

## INSIDE

CINEMA PAGE GO 3

Original 'Solaris' at BAMcinematek

MUSIC PAGE GO 6

Brooklyn Phil maestro to step down

BROOKLYN EVENTS CALENDAR: GO 2 GO SHOPPING: GO 7

(718) 834-9350 • December 2, 2002



# Novel ideas

## Bklyn Public Library toasts boro's VIPs at fundraiser

By Lisa J. Curtis  
The Brooklyn Papers

The Brooklyn Public Library Foundation honored best-selling author **Terry McMillan**, 1998 Nobel Prize-winner **Dr. Robert Furchgott**, Caldecott Medal-winning author-illustrator **Ted and Betsy Lewin** and jazz legend **Max Roach** at its sixth annual gala on Nov. 21.

NewChannel 4 reporter **Ti-Hua Chang** served as master of ceremonies. (Chang also introduced his father Jen-Chung Chang, a Midwood librarian, to the audience.)

Other guests included author **Ami-  
tāv Ghosh** ("The Glass Palace") with his wife, editor **Deborah Baker**, gala co-chair and children's book author **Jon Scieszka**; New York Times "Personal Health" columnist and author **Jane Brody**; Brooklyn Heights Councilman **David Yeskey**; Assemblywoman **Jean Millman**; Rep. **Jerrold Nadler**; Prospect Park administrator **Tupper Thomas**; Brooklyn Children's Mu-

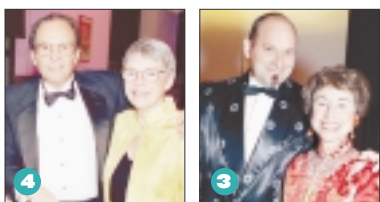
seum executive director **Carol Eroski**; Brooklyn Arts Council president **Ella Weiss** and Time Out New York publisher **Allison Tucci**. BPL executive director **Ginnie Cooper** attended the gala, and made a brief remark from the podium, but rebuffed GO Brooklyn's attempt to either chatter or chatter.

McMillan (author of "A Day Late and a Dollar Short," "How Stella Got Her Groove Back" and "Waiting to Exhale") called in sick to the event. Literally.

Her cousin Jacqueline Dixon accepted the award on her behalf, but McMillan did call from California and her remarks were amplified on a PA system.

"I apologize for being menopausal," she jokingly told the black tie room while they dined. "To be honest with you, I had surgery and the doctor advised me I couldn't fly."

"I lived in Brooklyn for seven years," said McMillan. "I hate that I had to miss this." Dixon said that McMillan lived in Cobble Hill and her novel "Mama" was born



Another world: (1) The Brooklyn Public Library held its "Bringing the World to Brooklyn" gala on Nov. 21 at the Central Library in Grand Army Plaza. (2) Jazz legend Max Roach, with daughter Dara Roach, was given the Arts, Media, Music and Sports Award. (3) Guests included gala co-chair and children's book author Jon Scieszka and New York Times columnist Jane Brody. (4) Children's book author-illustrators Betsy and Ted Lewin were given the Youth Services Division award.

in Brooklyn. "Thank you for acknowledging that my words mean something to anyone," said McMillan.

The gala, catered by Great Performances, raised \$300,000 for the Brooklyn Public Library, announced acting executive director **Siobhan Reardon**.

### 'Nam flashbacks

BAMcinematek's Vietnam film series, "From Hanoi to Hollywood: The Vietnam

War on Film" at 30 Lafayette Ave. at Ashland Place is attracting all kinds of Hollywood celebs.

On Nov. 10, **Vincent D'Onofrio** and **Matthew Modine** answered questions for an hour about the making of the 1987 film "Full Metal Jacket," directed by **Stanley Kubrick**. (Modine remembering having an "anxiety attack" during the filming.) The actors remembered how long it took to finish a scene by the number of days it took — not the number of takes.

Celebrated filmmaker **Milos Forman** will participate in a Q&A at BAM following a screening of "Hair" (1979) on Friday, Nov. 29. Forman's list of achievements include "Lovers of a Blonde" (1965), "One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest" (Best Director Academy Award, 1975), "Ragtime" (1981), "Amadeus" (Best Director Academy Award, 1984) and "The People vs. Larry Flynt" (Best Director nomination, 1996).

Also participating in the Q&A are writer **Jim Rado**, composer **Galt McDermott** and producer **Michael Hausman**. For more information and to purchase tickets to the screening, call (718) 636-4100 or visit the Web site at [www.bam.org](http://www.bam.org).

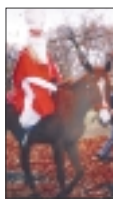
### Grey at BMA

Academy Award- and Tony-winning actor **Joel Grey** (father of "Dirty Dancing" actress **Jennifer Grey**) read stories to children and signed autographs at the Brooklyn Museum of Art, 200 Eastern Parkway, at the museum's First Saturday event on Oct. 5. The next First Saturday event is Dec. 7.

— Additional reporting by Greg Mango

## EVENT

# Dutch treats



St. Nicholas will be among the hosts at the Lefferts Homestead Winter Festival in Prospect Park on Sunday, Dec. 1.

From 1 pm to 4 pm, St. Nick will distribute chocolate coins and oranges to children while artisans from a variety of disciplines demonstrate handicrafts from the 1880s. Enjoy the *olekooks* (doughnut holes) at the outdoor cooking demonstration as well as quilting, spinning, weaving and woodworking demonstrations and toymaking, *scharren-knippen* (ornamental paper cutting and candlemaking workshops at one of Brooklyn's

last remaining Dutch farmhouses.

To reach the Lefferts Homestead Children's Historic House, enter the park at the intersection of Flatbush Avenue and Empire Boulevard. Admission is free. For more information, call (718) 789-2822.

## SHOPPING

# Great gifts

Brooklyn offers treasure trove of memorable holiday presents

By Lisa J. Curtis  
The Brooklyn Papers

This holiday season take the time to show your friends and family how much you cherish them by presenting them with a thoughtful gift. Many of Brooklyn's mom-and-pop stores offer a variety of one-of-a-kind gifts with the personal attention and service you need — minus the crowds.

### Made with love

For handcrafted gifts, go to Brooklyn Artisans Gallery in Cobble Hill and Patrias in Park Slope.

At the Brooklyn Artisans Gallery, owned and operated by local artisans since 1994, you'll find a treasure trove of gift ideas — accessories for men, women and the home. The selection includes everything from handcrafted cuff links, to memorabilia, to antique-style coffee grinders, to champagne glasses to rayon-chenille scarves.

For a truly unique gift, Carol Shiber's set of four hand-painted, fabric coasters (\$32) make a whimsical hostess gift. Her larger, leaf-shaped coasters have silk cords for stems. (If you really love the recipient of this gift, you can also purchase the matching place mats and napkin holders.)

You'll also find a variety of handmade gifts at Patrias, the Latin American folk-art boutique owned by Cobble Hill resident Paulina Perez Bemporad.

Patrias offers authentic Latin American jewelry, pottery, home furnishings, kitschy Spanish movie poster magnets, CDs and paper products.

For the cat lover, Patrias carries artist Joaquin Hernandez's gaily colored cat sculptures (\$24 small, \$36 large) that'll be a treasured gift to brighten any nook.

Currently, the shop is carrying an array of folk art — ranging from necklaces to beaded wall hangings — inspired by Mexican artist Frida Kahlo (1907-1954).

### Remember when

For the nostalgic friend, go to either the Brooklyn Cyclones or Uncle Matt's Brooklyn Merchandise Web sites.

At Uncle Matt's Web site, you'll find an array of Brooklyn-themed collectibles. While there are coffee mugs, holiday greeting cards and ornaments emblazoned with classic vintage and contemporary landmark photographs, we think the handmade wooden boxes — old-fashioned cheese boxes with metal handles and wooden spindle-grips (\$17.95) — have great gift basket potential.

At the Brooklyn Cyclones Web site, there's a variety of sportswear for fans of the minor league Mets affiliate — or even for the person still agonizing over Brooklyn's loss of the Dodgers. Their new one-size-fits-all baseball cap, the Nike Flex-fit Pinwheel Cap (\$20), has "Brooklyn" emblazoned across the front and the interlocking "BC" logo on the back.

But if you really want to wow 'em, spring for the Cyclones' "Mission" Pro Satin Jacket (\$150). This jacket proudly features "Brooklyn" tackle-twilled on the chest with the "BC" logo on the left sleeve. It has a nylon outer shell, heavy quilt lining for those chilly nights in the stands, snaps in front, and elastic knit trim on the collar, cuffs and waist. The jacket is available in sizes M-XL.

### Delicious surprises

Often the best way to a loved one's heart is through the stomach. Try a box of handcrafted chocolates by Sunset Park native John Karangis or assemble a gift basket from the Park Slope gourmet grocery store Bierkraft.

Karangis Chocolates (created by chef John Karangis, a New York City Technical College grad who honed his skills at Danny Meyer's Union Square Cafe and Gramercy Tavern)

See GIFTS on page GO 2

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# Loss of innocence

Series of Tarkovsky films explores mankind's darkside

By Kevin Filipksi

For The Brooklyn Papers

Russian director Andrei Tarkovsky's dense and willfully uncompromising films are the subject of a long overdue retrospective at the BAMcinematek. The retro, "My Name Is Andrei Tarkovsky" (Dec. 6-18 at the BAM Rose Cinemas), is near-complete, showing six of his seven mature films: only his penultimate feature "Nostalgia" (1983) has, unfortunately, not been included.

Although Tarkovsky (1932-1986) was allowed a surprising degree of independence by the Soviet authorities—notwithstanding his films being misinterpreted or branded inscrutable, and including bizarre censoring of his epic "Andrei Rublev"—he eventually left Russia for the West, where he made his final two films.

After finishing "Nostalgia" in Italy, he went to Sweden to make what would be his last work, "The Sacrifice," a stunning summing-up of all his earlier themes into a highly psychological brew.

No less a cinematic eminence than Ingmar Bergman marveled that Tarkovsky "invented a new language."

Each of his memorable films develops those truly Tarkovskian (to

coin a phrase) themes. After making an interesting 45-minute failure that planted the seeds of his later work ("The Steamroller and the Violin," not in the series), Tarkovsky moved on to his debut feature, "Ivan's Childhood" (aka "My Name Is Ivan," showing Dec. 6-7).

An orphaned teenager, Ivan has grown up knowing only warfare, which has transformed him into a walking zombie as he assists the Russian military spying on the Nazis. This bleakly knowing dissection of the simultaneous loss of innocence and humanity will haunt Tarkovsky's subsequent work.

His second film, "Andrei Rublev" is a gorgeous-looking psychobiography of the 15th-century icon painter and monk. The film's banning in the native country caused it to be shelved for several years, only to be originally shown around the world in mutilated form. The new print, being shown Dec. 8, is of the complete, 3-hour, 5-minute version, which is a masterpiece.

When Tarkovsky's gargantuan space epic "Solaris" (Dec. 13-14) appeared in 1972, it initially seemed a response to Kubrick's groundbreaking "2001," but the director—who disliked Kubrick's soulless view of the past and future of man—instead probes deeply into the psyche of his characters, who are seemingly at the mercy of the eponymous planet



Been there, done that: Filmmaker Andrei Tarkovsky's sci-fi epic "Solaris" (1972) was based on the same novel by Stanislaw Lem as the new Steven Soderbergh film featuring George Clooney.

which may or may not be a conscious entity.

"That 'Solaris' has been remade by director Steven Soderbergh and star George Clooney (who are smartly saying it's merely based on Stanislaw Lem's original novel) is a weird tribute to Tarkovsky, but I doubt it will be able to compete with his truly awe-inspiring view of 'humanity's own mortality and mortality.'

Possibly his most mysterious film among several contenders, 1974's "The Mirror" (Dec. 15-16) finds Tarkovsky coming as close as possible to a successfully showing and interpreting dreams on film: Bergman was the only other filmmaker to show the truth and the substance of dreams.

Tarkovsky has created a plotless, seemingly unstructured vision of consciousness as a mirror for the interior of our souls. Edited with a hypnotic power, including an in-

spired use of newsreels, music, spoken poetry and interspersing "reality" with dream states, "The Mirror" is unmissable.

The 1979 film "Stalker" (Dec. 18-19) is another sci-fi journey to the center of the mind, but its strengths are different from those of "Solaris." After the crash of a meteorite, a "zone" has been created in the middle of Russia that houses a "room" where every person's heartfelt desires come true.

Far more than merely relaxing a "genie in a bottle" story about granting wishes, "Stalker," with slow, gradually accumulating strength, shows how dangerous unlearned desires can be. It may or may not be ironic that Tarkovsky had to re-shoot all of "Stalker" after a fire destroyed the only existing print of the original version.

After defecting and making "Nos-

talghia" — with its quite apropos story of a displaced Russian artist wandering through a foreign land—Tarkovsky filmed his blackest, most troubling study of humanity in crisis while he was dying of lung cancer.

"The Sacrifice" is a look at the bargain an old man makes with the Almighty when an impending nuclear holocaust has rendered everything else null and void may be a mite precious, but as a visual spectacle, thanks to Bergman cinematographer Sven Nykvist, "The Sacrifice" (Dec. 9) is unforgettable, culminating in an astonishing sequence of a house burning to the ground that includes an incredible, six-minute long, unedited take.

For some, Tarkovsky's cinematic swan song is too studied and obscure; that unbroken six-minute shot alone, however, makes "The Sacrifice" a must see, as is the entire series.

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**GOSPEL BRUNCH:** BAM heads Dickson Guillaume and the New York State Italian Intentionalists Mass Choir as part of its "Sounds of Protest" series. \$23 includes food. 2 pm, 30 Lafayette Ave. (718) 634-1002.

**CONCERT:** Brooklyn Friends of Chamber Music presents a program of works by Medley, Berneri, Larsen, Kitchner and Hindemith. \$15. \$5 students. 3 pm, Lafayette Avenue Presbyterian Church, Lafayette Avenue and South Oxford Street. (718) 855-3053.

**MUSIC:** Police Officer Daniel Rodriguez performs "Christmas Magic." Program features traditional Christmas songs, hymns, operettas, sacred music and patriotic songs. \$25. 4 pm, St. Thomas Aquinas Church, 249 Ninth St. (718) 768-9471.

**BARGEMUSIC:** chamber program of works by Haydn, Bartok and Brahms. \$35. 4 pm, Fulton Ferry Landing. (718) 624-2083.

**BARBERS BAR:** music with Steve Dole. 6 pm, Jan session follows from 8 to 11:30 pm. No cover. 316 1st St. (718) 965-9177.

**OPERA:** Regina Opera Company presents "The Marriage of Figaro." 4 pm. See Set 36. **CHILDREN**

**HANUKKAH PARTY:** Kids age 6 and under and their families are invited to a singing and story-telling event. 7 pm to 8 pm, 316 1st St. (718) 965-9177.

**ADAPTIVE FAMILY PROGRAM:** Jewish Celiac Association offers a talk, "Hanukkah Celebration." \$20 for one parent, \$25 for two parents. 10:30 am to noon, Congregation Beth El, 274 Garfield Place. (212) 558-9949.

**HOLIDAY BRUNCH:** The Museum

Club hosts its annual event. \$25. 12:30 pm, 25 Eighth Ave. (718) 638-0802.

**OPEN HOUSE:** at Urban Glass. Tours, workshops and more. Also, store at Urban Glass offers selection of glass art works. 4 pm. See Set 36. **READING SERIES:** Soft Skull press. 7 pm, 116 1st St. (718) 625-3685. **Free.**

**AUCTION:** Scandinavian East Coast Museum hosts its annual event. \$20 includes lunch. 2 to 5 pm, Bethlehem Lutheran Church, corner of Livingston and Fourth avenues. Call for reservations. (718) 748-5953.

**BAMCINEMATEK:** "Peggy and Fred On Off." 3 pm, followed by C & A with director Leslie Thornton. \$9. 30, Lafayette Ave. (718) 634-4100.

**HOLIDAY ART SHOW:** at Sarafina Gallery. 3 to 7 pm, 411 Myrtle Ave. (718) 522-1083. **Free.**

**READING:** Novelist Alexandra Sporn reads from her book "All the Finest Girls." 3 pm, Sunny Bay, 253 Corner St. (718) 625-8211. **Free.**

**MICRO MUSEUM:** presents "Odd Sundays," a series featuring interactive art work by William and Kathleen Lazza. Also, guided tours of museum. \$10. \$5 seniors and students. 3 to 6 pm, 223 Smith St. (718) 797-3116.

**SUPPORT:** Monthly meeting hosted by Laryngectomy Support Group. 2 pm, St. Athanasius Convent, 2201 62nd St. (718) 637-3556. **Free.**

**MEMORAH LIGHTING:** Outside Borough Hall at 5 pm, at Grand Army Plaza at 6 pm. Free. Free memorials and candles to take home, letters and music. Rain or shine. See box on this page. **Free.**

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To let your event in **Where to GO**, please give us as much notice as possible. Send your listing by mail: GO Brooklyn, The Brooklyn Papers, 25 Court St., Ste. 506, Brooklyn, NY 11242; or by fax: (718) 834-9278. Listings are free and printed on a space available basis. We regret we cannot take listings over the phone.

**President Markowitz** lights tonight outside Borough Hall at 5 pm. A menorah is also lit at Grand Army Plaza at 6 pm. Free. Free memorials and candles to take home, letters and music. Rain or shine. See box in this section. **Free.**

**MEETING:** Waterfront Development Committee of Community Board 6 meets. 6:30 pm, 10th Precinct, 191 Union St. (718) 643-3027.

**CONCERT:** Long Island University jazz program. 7 pm, Flatbush Avenue Extension and DeKalb Avenue. (718) 488-1051. **Free.**

**ST. ANN'S WAREHOUSE:** "Salome: The Reading," by Oscar Wilde. Al Pacino, Maria Tonnei and Chamee West will be among the performers during its 26 performance run. \$20. 8 pm, 38 Water St. (866) 468-7476.

**BARBERS BAR:** presents the film "The Machinist" (1999). No cover. 7 pm, 376 North St. (718) 965-9177.

**DISCUSSION SERIES:** Brooklyn Public Library Central branch presents "Postwar Years, Cold War Years." 7 pm, 1960. Today's discussion on Dwight Eisenhower. 6 to 8 pm, Grand Army Plaza. (718) 250-2100. **Free.**

**HEALTHY EATING:** Health Plus talk on how to get kids to eat right. 8:30 am. United Methodist Church. 12:20 pm. 180 Remsen St. (718) 489-5272. **Free.**

**JAZZ:** Long Island University hosts a student jazz performance. 8 pm. Also, drummer Leroy White performs. 4 pm, Flatbush Avenue Extension and DeKalb Avenue. (718) 488-1051. **Free.**

**Tues, Dec 3**

**Weds, Dec 4**

**Thurs, Dec 5**

**Fri, Dec 6**

**Sat, Dec 7**

**Sun, Dec 8**

**Mon, Dec 9**

**Tue, Dec 10**

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**Thurs, Dec 19**

**Fri, Dec 20**

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**Mon, Dec 30**

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# Look again

## BAM brings a Japanese interpretation of 'Macbeth' to Brooklyn

**By Paulanne Simmons**  
for The Brooklyn Papers

Even for a time noted for its gore, William Shakespeare's "Macbeth," written in 1606, is a famously violent play. The audience rarely sees the actual murders, but they are quite adequately represented on stage by bloody hands and bloodier descriptions. There's Banquo's death, Duncan's death, Lady Macbeth's suicide, and at last, Macduff bearing Macbeth's severed head.

In The Ninagawa Company's "Macbeth," at BAM's Howard Gilman Opera House Dec. 4-7, this stark brutality is augmented by the mirrored surfaces of the sets (designed by Tsukasa Nakagoshi) that multiply the bloody bodies and severed heads. These reflecting surfaces are inspired by and reinforce the witches' unsettling vision in Act IV of a line of kings — "And yet the eighth appears, who bears a glass, which shows me many more."

"In order to believe the prophecy, I thought we needed the carriage in battlefields and bloody revenge," says director Yukio Ninagawa via e-mail from Japan. "If we do not believe in the existence of the witches themselves, then the action by Macbeth and Lady Macbeth does not seem real."

But Ninagawa also gives another inspiration for the mirrored set: "my aching desire to mirror the contemporary world."

The mirrored surfaces work with Rantous Harada's lighting to create a variety of illusions onstage — scenes with only a few actors appear crowded, and entrances from the auditorium, reflected on mirrored sliding doors, seem as if they are coming from upstage — all part of Ninagawa's vision of theater as an "uber art."

Ninagawa, who began his career as an actor, made his directorial debut in small-scale theaters in Japan in 1969 and achieved critical acclaim for his direction with "Romeo and Juliet" at the Nissei Theatre in Tokyo in 1974, was last seen at BAM during the 1990 Next Wave Festival with an earlier interpretation of "Macbeth."

"Macbeth." And the company is currently directing all 37 of Shakespeare's plays at Tokyo's Saitama Arts Theatre as part of the Saitama-Kuni Shakespeare Series.

"Shakespeare's plays are filled with his strong desire to completely understand and accept human nature and the world. His strong will touches us, who live in contemporary society and rarely have a broader view. I like to share this view of the world with others by staging his inspiring plays," he says.

Ninagawa believes that although "Macbeth" will be performed in Japanese translation (with English surtitles), audiences will "still be moved by Shakespeare's appealing and beautiful language."

"You can tell that from the fact that



Shakespeare and samurai: The Ninagawa Company's production of "Macbeth" will be performed at the Brooklyn Academy of Music Dec. 4-7. *Sam Egawa*

many Japanese love Shakespeare," he says.

But Ninagawa is not only working with a Japanese translation, he is also working with and within the Asian tradition.

"I want to believe that it's meaningful for us to do Shakespeare. We are trying to destroy and at the same time create the Japanese tradition by combining the Asian theater, which values style, and the European theater, which is largely based on realism," he explains.

In the end, however, it is the universal message Ninagawa chooses to emphasize. He has cast young actors in both the title role (Toshiaki Karasawa) and as Lady Macbeth (Shinobu Otake) because he sees the play as a kind of end of innocence.

"If there is a last day of youth, this is a story on that night — the story of young folks," he says. "Macbeth and Lady Macbeth are making a choice of how to live. They choose to believe in the witches' prophecy. It is young people's privilege to get to choose one out of many possibilities."

Through choosing evil they come to a "deeper realization of things."

"I see the human impulse there," he says. "This is universal."

And what could be more universal than a Scottish story retold by an Elizabethan playwright, reinterpreted by a Japanese director and presented to an American audience in Brooklyn?

## WHERE TO GO...

**Continued from previous page...**

hosts its 42nd annual dance, 5:30 pm. El Caribe, 3943 Strickland Ave. Reservations necessary. (718) 946-6450.

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**MEETING:** Youth Services and Education Committee of Community Board 6, 4 pm. South Beach Community High School, 173 Conover St. (718) 643-3027.

**SMALL BUSINESS TALK:** Boricua College Small Business Development Center offers talk, "Preparing a Business Plan and Getting a Small Business Loan," 6 to 8 pm, 4 Chase Metro Tech Center, (718) 963-4112. **Free.**

**TOWN HALL MEETING:** New York City Parks hosts a meeting, 6:30 pm, Brooklyn Hospital, 121 DeKalb Ave. (718) 558-6100.

**WRITERS LIVE:** Pratt Institute presents writers Jim Ellinger and Thad Zielkowski reading from their works, 7 pm, 200 Willowby Ave. (718) 636-3473. **Free.**

**BOOK DISCUSSION:** Union Center for Women hosts a book talk on "Black When We Were Green," 7 pm. Call to pre-register. (718) 748-7708. **Free.**

**NEXT WAVE:** Brooklyn Academy of Music presents the Ninagawa Company's "Macbeth," \$20, \$25, 7:30 pm. Howard Gilman Opera House, 30 Lafayette Ave. (718) 636-4111.

**FORUM:** Associations of Brooklyn Heights, Cobble Hill, Boerum Hill and Carroll Gardens meet to discuss East River bridge toll, 7:30 pm. St. Francis College, 180 Remsen St. (718) 489-5272.

**BARBERS BAR:** music with The Will Holdover Trio. No cover. 9 pm, 176 North St. (718) 965-9177.

**HANUKKAH CELEBRATION:** Park Slope Hebrew day synagogue, folk dancing and a raffle, \$25. East Midwood Jewish Center, 1625 Ocean Ave. Call. (718) 382-4454.

**LOW BAR:** evening of burlesque. No cover. 9:30 pm. 81 Washington St. (718) 222-110W.

**ST. ANN'S WAREHOUSE:** "Salome," 8 pm. See Mon.

**Fellowship winners:** 5:30 to 8 pm. Brooklyn Public Library, Central branch, Grand Army Plaza. (718) 625-0080. **Free.**

**THREE LIGHTING:** Atlantic Avenue event. Entertainment includes Atlantic Avenue Dog Wagon Singers and Santa Claus offering cookies and cider. 6 pm. Belvedere Church, on Atlantic Avenue at Bond Street. (718) 875-8992. **Free.**

**AUCTION:** New York City College of Technology hosts a live and silent auction, Tech alumni and Visiting Distinguished Professor Michael Lomax is guest auctioneer. \$20 includes buffet dinner. 6 to 9 pm. 300 Jay St. (718) 240-5025.

**BARBERS BAR:** program of "The Four Seasons" by Vivaldi. Also, Verdi. \$35. 7:30 pm. Fulton Ferry Landing. (718) 624-2083.

**LOW BAR:** reading by playwright Lee Blessing. No cover. 8 pm. 81 Washington St. (718) 222-110W.

**BARBERS BAR:** Strauss Warehouse Duo Klezmer concert. No cover. 9 pm. 391 North St. (718) 965-9177.

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**MUSIC:** Ecce perform. South Park, 125 Fifth Ave. at Sterling Place. Call. (718) 230-0236.

**NEXT WAVE:** Brooklyn Academy of Music presents "Mercy," 7:30 pm. Also, BAM Dialogue with Mendel Mark and Ann Hamilton follows performance. Included in admission with same-night performance. See Tue.

**NEXT WAVE:** Ninagawa Company's "Macbeth," 7:30 pm. See Wed.

**Fri, Dec 6**

**CRAFT FAIR:** PS 102 sale. 9 am to 3 pm. 217 72nd St. (718) 834-1713.

**HOLIDAY FAIR:** at Our Saviour's Lutheran Church. 11 am to 3 pm. 414 80th St. (718) 745-0200.

**FAMILY NIGHT:** Fort Hamilton military family night for current Department of Defense card holders. 5:30 to 9 pm. Fort Hamilton Parkway. (915) 630-4754. **Free.**

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# Spano passes baton

## Brooklyn Philharmonic maestro to quit in 2004

By Lisa J. Curtis  
The Brooklyn Papers

**B**rooklyn Philharmonic conductor and music director Robert Spano has announced that he will not renew his contract with the financially strapped orchestra and will step down at the end of the 2003-04 season, the 50th anniversary year of the Brooklyn Philharmonic.

Spano told GO Brooklyn on Tuesday that he will take on the title of music advisor for the orchestra in 2004-05 and will aid the orchestra in its search for a new music director.

Philharmonic Board President Craig Matthews (retired vice chairman and CEO of KeySpan Energy) said in a release that the Philharmonic has begun the search for a new music director and confirmed that Spano would be a consultant in this process.

Spano, who came to the Philharmonic in 1996, will assume the title of principal guest conductor for the orchestra's 2005-06 and 2006-07 seasons. "He's internationally sought out as a major conductor," said Philharmonic executive director

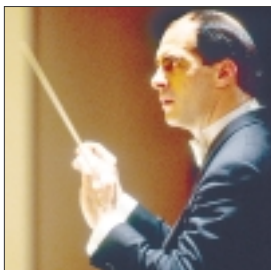
Catherine Cahill. "We are very pleased he's going to continue an active role with us even when this contract is expired."

Hints that the maestro might be distracted by other commitments — he's also the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra's music director — materialized at last May's Brooklyn Philharmonic gala fundraiser at the Brooklyn Museum of Art when Spano was a no-show.

Spano, in a telephone interview from Atlanta Tuesday, said he had already given up his apartment in Brooklyn and that "demands on my time and energy meant it would be inevitable that I would want to leave. But I didn't want to."

This way I can relinquish the responsibilities of music director and still have the joy of working with the orchestra."

Because of budget shortfalls, the orchestra had been forced to reprogram its 2000-01 and 2001-02 seasons midway through. Rather than an orchestra performance on Feb. 15 and Feb. 16 of this year at the Brooklyn Academy of Music's opera house, the Philharmonic produced a piano recital at



**Never can say goodbye:** Brooklyn Philharmonic Music Director Robert Spano says his new title as principal guest conductor means not yet having to say farewell.

Michael Darter

Baptist Temple Church on Schermerhorn Street. The change of venue resulted in a ticket shuffle for Philharmonic subscribers, and the orchestra's union, Local 802 of the American Federation of Musicians, seized upon the opportunity to turn their contract negotiations into a public brouhaha.

Spano, however, said he remains enamored with the Brooklyn Philharmonic and that if he was afraid of budget shortfalls, he would have changed vocations a long time ago. "Last season's changes were heartbreaking for everybody, but the reason we did it, is so we wouldn't accumulate new debt," said Spano. "I'm convinced we did the right thing. After 9-11, I know a lot of organizations have said this, but for us, it was really true. After that happened it had a serious impact on our budget."

Lots of funding went away. We adjusted to new realities, and it was difficult.

"Now, here in this season, however painful it was and is, we have a real commitment to good planning, so that doesn't happen," the maestro said. "This season is unfolding as planned."

Cahill told GO Brooklyn in February that both she and Spano had taken "massive" pay cuts because of the budget crunch, but Spano said the Philharmonic's financial challenges were not the reason he opted out as music director.

"If that was a reason to leave, I would have left a long time ago," he said. "In the music world, [budget shortfalls] are not an uncommon problem. It's not something you can run away from. You have to meet it head on."

"I've had to recognize the realities of my own life. That's very difficult. I don't have a lot of reasons to want to leave [the Brooklyn Philharmonic], but I have a lot of reasons to stay," said Spano. "That's what is so nice about the principal guest conductor arrangement. It's better rather than a goodbye."

Spano said that he would work in an advisory capacity with the Philharmonic in choosing a new music director.

Spano has been widely praised for his work with the Philharmonic, and his successor will have big shoes to fill.

"The most critical thing for Brooklyn Philharmonic leadership," said Cahill, "meaning the board and staff and whoever the new music director is, is to have vision and commitment to artistic excellence. What fuels us all — I love the people I work with — is we all have a passion for what we're doing, and without that passion nothing will work."

Spano would also like the Philharmonic's programming to continue the identity he and his predecessors, such as Lukas Foss and Dennis Russell Davies have helped it create.

"Our concerts are unique," said Spano. "We're doing things you won't hear anywhere else in the city or presented in a new way with a fresh perspective. That's very important."

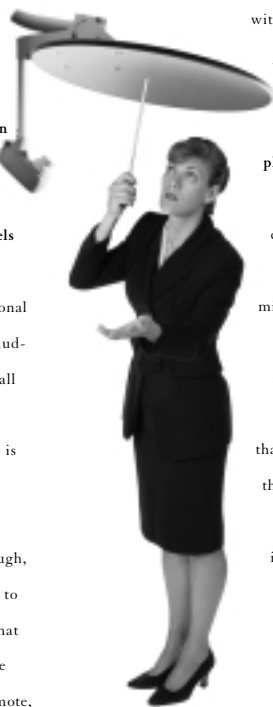
In a co-production with the Brooklyn Academy of Music and the Mark Morris Dance Group, the Brooklyn Philharmonic will present Morris' "The Hard Nut" Dec. 17-22. The performances will mark the 10th anniversary of that production and the grand finale to BAM's 20th Next Wave season.

The Philharmonic, under the baton of Robert Cole, will perform Tchaikovsky's original "Nutcracker" score.

"Orchestras in general are experiencing challenging financial times," said Cahill, "and certainly we've had our troubles, but we have been on a road to recovery. We've balanced our budget for the last two seasons and reduced our accumulated deficit by 50 percent. And we opened the season with a sold-out run of [Ovalado] Goljov's 'Pasion'."

"Because of Robert's dynamic leadership, commitment and passion for this institution," she said, "we have this good story to tell."

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## MEXICO...

Continued from page GO 8  
businesses during the Day of the Dead celebration.

"The Day of the Dead is a very enjoyable day," continued Lopez. "In the evening, people wait in the cemeteries talking, joking and singing. Food is laid out. It is a nice celebration."

Another holiday decoration are edible skulls made from sugar. A small mold is made in the shape of a skull, and then sugar and water are heated until syrup is formed, poured into the mold and hardened. After the sugar has dried the mold is opened, and the skull is painted a bright color.

"In Mexico," said Lopez, "it is typical to find skulls with the names of the dead painted on them."

Don Paco Lopez's *panaderia*, or "bakery," produces special breads and other baked goods for the occasion.

The *pan de muertos*, or "bread of the dead," is a round loaf with a cross-shaped design on its surface that resembles bones.

"The bread changes from town to town," said Lopez. "Some people like their *pan de muertos* covered with sesame seeds; others prefer it with red sugar."

In business for 12 years, with a branch on 116th Street and Third Avenue in Manhattan, Don Paco has grown from a small bakery where locals could also buy tamales, to an operation that includes the large, spotless bakery where we watched five men spread a mixture of lard and sugar over the tops of rolls.

"They are delicious after they're baked," said Lopez. "Believe me."

In the grocery area a shopper can find all manner of dried spices and chiles and a variety of imported canned and jarred goods; and in the restaurant a diner can sit on a stool along one long counter and enjoy authentic Mexican snacks.

Lopez is nostalgic for the store's early years.

"My mother made tamales that were truly great. People lined up around the street for them," said Lopez.

In addition to tamales, which are now served only on Saturdays and Sundays, Don Paco sells sandwiches called



**On the rise:** The smell of baking bread welcomes visitors to Don Paco Lopez Panaderia in Sunset Park.

The Brooklyn Papers / Greg Mangro

*tortas*. A *torta* is a round, yeasty roll filled with chicken and a mole sauce (spices, ground pumpkin or sesame seeds and unroasted chocolate) and can be topped with mayonnaise, tomatoes and jalapeno peppers. Authentic *chiles rellenos* [a poblano pepper stuffed with a mild cheese (*queso fresco*), battered and fried], is a specialty of the restaurant.

We concluded the tour with superb cups of strong coffee and *champurrado*, a hot, roasted, blue cornmeal and chocolate drink.

### The next step

Upcoming Brooklyn Historical Society Walks & Talks include: Dec. 15, "Saturday Night Fever Revisited," a walk through Bay Ridge led by architectural historian Francis Morrone; Jan. 15, "Inside The Arab-American community in Brooklyn," that begins with a demonstration of pita bread making at the Damascus bakery on Atlantic Avenue, then continues a few doors down at Sabahi's where owner Charlie Sabahi will discuss the growth of the Arab-American community in this borough; and on Sunday, Feb. 2, "Bringing Africa to Fort Greene," wherein a member of the Brooklyn Historical Society will lead the group on a tour of stores along Fulton Street where merchants have interpreted the arts of Africa in contemporary home decor and fashion. The tour finishes with snacks at Ken's n' Dey's, a Senegalese restaurant.

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# Taste of Mexico

*Walking tour introduces visitors to Sunset Park's little Mexico via their tastebuds*

By Tina Barry  
for The Brooklyn Papers

In honor of the Mexican Day of the Dead celebration, Annie Hauck-Lawson, a scholar who studies the relationship between food and culture, led a tour through Brooklyn's Sunset Park, home to many Mexican immigrants.

The Oct. 26 tour, "Mexican Meals in Sunset Park," was one of a monthly series of historical walking tours sponsored by the Brooklyn Historical Society and held from September through February.

About 12 foodies gathered at 41st Street and Fifth Avenue and listened while Hauck-Lawson, an associate professor in Brooklyn College's health and nutrition department, described the immigrants who have shaped this area.

Hauck-Lawson, framed by the neighborhood's skyline and harbor view, began the tour with a description of late-19th century groups — mostly Scandinavian, Polish, German and Italian — who settled along the two-mile stretch of the neighborhood's waterfront.

"At this time," said Hauck-Lawson, "there were German delicatessens and Scandinavian food shops with gold signs in their windows that read, 'Norwegian food sold here.' Until the 1980s, you could go into some of the delis along Fifth Avenue and Eighth Avenue and still buy

## DINING

Don Paco Lopez Panaderia is located at 4703 Fourth Ave. between 47th and 48th streets. For more information, call (718) 492-7443. Cash only.  
To attend a *Walks & Talks* event or for more information about The Brooklyn Historical Society call (718) 222-4111 or visit [www.brooklynhistory.org](http://www.brooklynhistory.org).

the traditional fish cakes and steamed fish puddings that were popular with the early settlers of the area.

"[By the 1970s] immigrants from the Dominican Republic, and New Yorkers originally from Puerto Rico, many of whom moved here from the Bronx when that area became too crowded, moved to Sunset Park and opened businesses," said Hauck-Lawson. "A smaller number of Brooklynites from Honduras, and also Mexico, moved to the neighborhood." Over the past decade the population of Mexicans in New York City has tripled with many Mexicans settling in Sunset Park.

From the late 1980s through the 1990s Sunset Park became home to Asian immigrants who concentrated primarily along Eighth Avenue creating Brooklyn's Chinatown.

As we walked along Fifth Avenue, we noticed tamales set up on the street. "Immigrants sell specialties from their

homelands that include tamales (meat or vegetables coated with a masa (corn dough) wrapped in a corn husk and steamed); fresh fruit like pineapple and mango that are cut and scored then sprinkled with salt, pepper and chili powder; deep-fried tortillas (soft, unleavened bread made from masa or wheat flour and lard, baked on a griddle) rolled and filled with pork; and cotton candy," said Hauck-Lawson.

A participant commented on the groups of men seen dining together in the *taquerias* (restaurants that serve burritos, tacos, quesadillas and other authentic Mexican foods).

"The area's restaurants become a very important social environment for trading job information, and emotionally to ease the pain of separation from their families and their homeland," said Hauck-Lawson.

"The *taquerias* serve the sort of food the men ate in their families' kitchens, including tacos with a filling made from different parts of the animal — sliced pigs ears, beef tongue — flavors that reflect the traditional foods of the residents, not necessarily the visiting customer."

Our walk concluded in the Don Paco Lopez Panaderia, on Fourth Avenue at 47th Street. Once inside the bustling shop, which includes a bakery, grocery and small restaurant, we were met with the spicy aroma of chiles and the warm, yeasty scent of bread baking.

In the grocery area of the shop, an altar



Baker Francisco Lopez, at work in Don Paco Lopez Panaderia, a bakery and grocery store on Fourth Avenue at 47th Street in Sunset Park, specializing in Mexican foods.  
The Brooklyn Papers / Greg Margo

commemorating *Día de los Muertos*, or Day of the Dead, which takes place on Nov. 1 and Nov. 2, had been erected in memory of the Lopez's deceased family and friends.

Paco Lopez, the son of Don Paco Lopez, who owns the store, described the holiday: "Families set out an altar decorated with food and fruits of the region —

some people include oranges, tangerines and apples. Sometimes there is sugar cane, sometimes cigarettes and liquor if that is what the dead person enjoyed. There are, of course, candles and framed photographs of the deceased. We also decorate the altar with flowers. Typical flowers found on Day of the Dead altars are marigolds and chrysanthemums.

"We believe that the intensity of the color will guide the dead back home safely," said Lopez.

Hanging across the grocery area of the store like brightly colored garments on a clothes line, were intricately cut squares of paper in fuchsia, red, electric blue and bright yellow that traditionally decorate homes and

See **MEXICO** on page **GO 6**

**2**

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